

Nathan indicted for PLO meeting

TEL AVIV (AP) — Peace activist Abbie Nathan has been charged with violating Israeli law for a second time by meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, a justice ministry spokeswoman said Monday. Nathan was sentenced last October to six months in prison after being convicted of meeting with Arafat and other leading figures in the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1988. Released after four months for good behavior, he immediately travelled to PLO headquarters in Tunis and again held talks with Arafat. Nathan, 63, told the Associated Press he met with Arafat last March to protest an Israeli law prohibiting such meetings, which is an obstacle to peace. "I was ready to go to jail," Nathan said, "but I was convinced a majority of Israelis were ready to talk to the PLO, and I wanted to show them that I will even risk my life," he vowed. Nathan is best known for making a dramatic trip in a private plane to Cairo in 1964 to try to convince Egypt to make peace with Israel. In 1978, he went on a 45-day hunger strike to protest the building of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Gorbachev, Singh stress peace

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev and Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh pledged Monday to build a nuclear-free and non-violent world, TASS reported. The official Soviet news agency said a joint statement of the two countries' commitment to disarmament and the replacement of confrontation and force with peace through reason. But the content of the statement they signed in the Kremlin did not touch on economic issues. Singh arrived in the Soviet Union earlier Monday and was met at the airport by Premier Nikolai I. Ryzhkov. Indian officials had said one of Singh's chief goals during the trip was to protect his country's trade relationship with the Soviet Union, now based on barter and ruble-rupee parity. This could be undercut by Moscow's plans to make the ruble convertible. In dinner speeches, Gorbachev and Singh praised their two countries' cooperation. Singh cited Gorbachev's "courage and visionary thinking" and Gorbachev thanked India for its support for perestroika, his reform programme.

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Ambassador heads for Libya

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's appointed ambassador to Libya Hisham Al Muheisen said Monday that he would exert all efforts to bolster ties between Jordan and Libya, severed since 1984, with a view to enhancing Arab solidarity and joint Arab action. Speaking to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the eve of his departure for Tripoli to take up his post, Muheisen said that he would not only try to strengthen existing trade and cultural and social links between the two countries, but would also attempt to open new avenues for mutual cooperation in the fields of health, education and tourism.

70,000 emigres to Israel so far this year

TEL AVIV (R) — Some 70,000 immigrants have come to Israel so far this year, most from the Soviet Union, Immigration Minister Yitzhak Peretz told a parliamentary committee Monday. He predicted 20,000 immigrants a month from August onwards, his spokeswoman said. Earlier official estimates projected 150,000 immigrants this year. Peretz said 61,000 immigrants have come from the Soviet Union this year but a third of them are non-Jewish relatives of Soviet Jews.

Bush sends peace message to Egypt

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — U.S. President George Bush sent Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak a message Monday stressing Washington's commitment to achieving peace in the Middle East, government sources said. "Working together, we can meet our common goals, chief of which is our desire for peace in the Middle East," Bush told Mubarak in a message congratulating him on the anniversary of Egypt's 1952 revolution.

Rafsanjani attacks opponents

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's pragmatist President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Monday launched a scathing attack on his hardline rivals. Rafsanjani called for closer relations with the outside world, saying Iran could not survive without friends. He defended the role of the Experts' Assembly, which chooses Iran's supreme leader, after leading radical Ali Akbar Mohtashemi sparked a political row by attacking its members last week. "If a person or a trend is thinking of weakening that holy organisation (the assembly), their action will not be tolerated," Tehran radio quoted Rafsanjani as telling a gathering of clergymen.

Fire reported at Soviet nuclear plant

MOSCOW (R) — An electrical fire at a nuclear power station in Central Russia forced the plant to shut down automatically, but there was no damage to the reactor, the government daily Izvestia said Monday. The station at Smolensk, 375 kilometres south-west of Moscow, was of a design similar to one at Chernobyl in the Ukraine where a reactor went out of control in 1986, sending radioactive fallout over a wide area. A fire in an electric cable running to a reserve boiler at the Smolensk station triggered the automatic shut down Sunday, the report said. Firefighters put out the blaze.

'Zulu war' spreads

JOHANNESBURG (R) — At least 18 people were killed in weekend political warfare in black townships near Johannesburg, police said Monday. Followers of Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi clashed with backers of the leftist African National Congress (ANC) after a rally in Sebokeng township Sunday, a spokesman said. It was the bloodiest spillover into South Africa's industrial heartland of faction fighting that has claimed more than 3,000 lives in the eastern province of Natal.



His Majesty King Hussein and the delegation which accompanied him on a visit to Cairo Monday are received upon their return home after their brief working visit to the Egyptian capital by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Faisal (Petra photo).

Iraqi media launch attack on Sheikh Sabah

Kuwait defends itself in flaring row with Iraq

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Kuwait, defending itself against Iraqi charges that it sought to draw foreign powers into their worsening confrontation, denied Monday it sought U.N. intervention and said it wanted Arabs to settle the dispute. There was no immediate reaction to Monday's bitter personal attack in the official Iraqi media on Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, branded as a U.S. agent. The Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA), quoting an official source, said the emirate's memorandum last week to United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was in line with international practice. "Kuwait would like to assert here once again that when it submitted that memo it never requested that it be distributed to member nations or that the U.N. secretary general should act upon it," it quoted the official source as saying. "Kuwait is concerned that all issues which arise about relations between brothers should be dealt

within the Arab League." The contact with the U.N. has infuriated Baghdad. "Sabah Al Ahmad has been further exposed as a U.S. agent when he abandoned the Arab choice and sent his memorandum to international forums to take the issue out of the Arab League," said Al Thawra, organ of Iraq's ruling Baath Party. Sheikh Sabah, 61, has been Kuwait's foreign minister since 1963 and is also deputy prime minister. He is a leading member of the ruling royal family. Al Thawra accused him of trying to justify "the presence of foreign fleets, especially the fleet of his friends in the Gulf." Kuwait refuted much of its tanker fleet to gain U.S. protection during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, during which it supported Baghdad with billions of dollars. The two papers accused Sheikh Sabah of trying to undermine the government of Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah so as to become premier himself.

They said he sought to "exercise a bigger and more effective role in the conspiracy against Iraq." The papers said Sheikh Sabah had seized the file on the Iraq-Kuwait border issue from Sheikh Saad to prolong the dispute. Replying to Sheikh Sabah's comment that the dispute was a "summer cloud," Al Jumhuriya said: "The one who calls all the evil done by Kuwait against Iraq as a summer cloud has an evil hand in the big American conspiracy not only against Iraq, but against Kuwait and the Arab Nation at large." Syria appealed for calm to defuse the crisis between Baghdad and Kuwait. In his first public comments on the row since Iraq last week accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of stabbing Baghdad in the back by overproducing oil and forcing down prices, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said quiet diplomacy was needed to resolve

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Continued battles in S. Lebanon

SIDON (Agencies) — Rival Shi'ite Muslim factions reinforced their frontlines at a mountain-top town in South Lebanon Monday. Thousands of villagers fled the region, fearing further warfare. Police reported a marked decrease in fighting between the pro-Iranian fundamentalist Hizbollah, and the Syrian-backed Amal militia around the strategic town of Jarjouh. They said a combatant was killed and two Amal militiamen were wounded in day-long, sporadic exchanges of artillery and sniper fire as the battle for a cluster of villages near Israel's self-designated "security zone" entered a second week. Police said the dead fighter was a Syrian who belonged to the Damascus-based Arab Baath Party. About 200 Baathists and a symbolic force of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party have been

fighting alongside Amal. Israeli airforce jets monitored the fighting in repeated reconnaissance flights over South Lebanon Monday, police said. Monday's casualties raised the toll to 126 people killed and 369 wounded since the fighting broke out July 16. The bombardments hit at least 10 villages but concentrated on the village of Jarjouh, captured by Hizbollah in house-to-house fighting. Amal and its allies, backed by covering fire from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fighters, have failed to retake the village despite fierce counterattacks. An Iranian embassy delegation led by Gholamreza Valizadeh continued talks with militia officials in Sidon to try to end the battles in the nearby Iqlim Al Toufah district 40 kilometres

south of Beirut. The Iranian diplomat said he was trying to implement a pact signed by Hizbollah and Amal under the sponsorship of Damascus and Tehran 18 months ago. The "Damascus accord" was never carried out because the warring factions had different interpretations of its articles. Amal has blamed Tehran for the violence and said Iranian Revolutionary Guards were fighting alongside Hizbollah in Iqlim Al Toufah. Hundreds of Revolutionary Guards are deployed in the eastern Bekaa Valley. Witnesses and security sources said both sides were reinforcing their positions with men and ammunition. A 600-man PLO "disengagement" force which deployed last week between the two sides was also strengthening its posts.

Egypt said to propose four-point mediation plan

King discusses Gulf row with Mubarak and Aziz in Cairo

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Monday discussed the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait and held a separate meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and told reporters afterwards that both Jordan and Egypt would exert all efforts to resolve the row. "I will do all I can to help end this problem," the King told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, upon his return from Cairo after his talks with Mubarak and Aziz. His visit to Cairo, the King said, was part of efforts among the member states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) to "deal with challenges facing the ACC members as well as other Arab states." The ACC, which was established in February 1989, groups Jordan with Egypt, Yemen and Iraq. "We are still at the beginning of the road and have a lot to do,"

said the King, the current ACC chairman. "We started the first year by laying down the groundwork, followed by agreements which are now being implemented." Petra said the King and Mubarak held a round of talks before meeting with Aziz, who was visiting Cairo in the wake of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute. The two leaders' talks covered "means to settle inter-Arab differences and unify Arab ranks" as well as efforts to give new momentum to the Middle East peace process, according to Petra. The King also held a separate round of talks with Aziz. As the King held these meetings, the delegation accompanying him — which included His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem — held talks with Egyptian Prime Minister

Ataf Sedki and other senior officials. The King, upon his return home, sent a cable to Mubarak thanking him for the hospitality extended to him and the delegation during the visit. "Our meeting and talks with you were another opportunity to consolidate our brotherly links and gather collective efforts to serve the interests of the Arab Homeland and Nation," the cable said. "I am sure this meeting between us today will have its fruitful results in our march towards our glorious goals to serve the best interests of our present and future Arab generations," it said. The King's visit to Cairo marked another phase in Arab diplomatic efforts to settle the Iraq-Kuwait dispute which flared after Baghdad accused Kuwait of exploiting oil from Iraqi territory and undermining world oil prices by overproduction. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the emir of Kuwait, tele-

phoned Mubarak Monday what the president's office termed a review of the crisis and efforts to contain it. The consultations coincided with reports from Kuwait about a four-point Egyptian mediation plan. At the end of the talks, Mubarak told reporters the meetings among Arab leaders were aimed at "coordination to clear the air." At a joint news conference held with King Hussein shortly before the monarch's departure, Mubarak said "Iraq and Kuwait are two Arab countries with joint borders." He expressed confidence the problem between them will be solved. Aziz also attended the conference and flew back home soon after. Mubarak told the press conference: "I am certain that what has been called a problem is in itself easy to solve. I am certain the two countries will reach a quiet and comfortable solution." He does not need all this noise, which is happening in the media," he said. Aziz told reporters that Iraq was not guilty of threatening Kuwait or

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Restrictions eased on bridge crossing

By Jamal Halaby
Associated Press

AMMAN — The Israeli occupation authorities this weekend eased restrictions on Arabs crossing the Jordan River bridges, helping reduce a backlog of people waiting and sometimes camping on the eastern side, a bridge official said Monday. Colonel Hamdan Al Attar, commander of Jordan's bridge guard units, said Israel had allowed almost 2,000 Palestinians to cross the King Hussein Bridge by midday Monday and another 500 were due to cross before its closure in the early afternoon. He told the Associated Press in an interview that another 1,000 people had crossed the Prince Mohammad Bridge and an expected 500 were on their way to enter. Attar said Monday was the second day of normal crossing after Jordan protested last Thursday that the Israeli occupation authorities had "sharply and suddenly" reduced human traffic across the bridges connecting Jordan with the Israeli-occupied territories. Israel last week rejected Jordan's accusations of hampering agreed passage. Dan Naveh, spokesman for Defence Minister Moshe Arens, contended that the accusation was "not true."

"We were very surprised at the Israeli denial," Attar said, noting that hundreds of Palestinians had jammed the bridge station on the eastern side and some even slept there awaiting their turn to cross. He said among these travellers, would really take some of the best brains in Jordan to make any sense of the financial affairs of Petra Bank. "The most difficult hurdle in our mission was the absence of documents since there was no proper records of transactions," Dr. Waked told the Jordan Times. "Abnormal and absurd" The investigations, conducted by whom bankers and economists describe as "top experts" in their respective areas of banking specialisation, have found that there had been "gross violations of banking regulations set by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), and unorthodox practices detrimental to the interests of the bank and its shareholders," said Dr. Waked, a director of the Bank of Jordan and a former member of the CBJ board of direc-

Israelis seal Halhoul homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — In the West Bank village of Halhoul near Herbon, Israeli forces Monday sealed the houses of two Palestinians suspected of stoning an Israeli man and woman last month. In the Gaza Strip village of Beit Hanoun, Israeli forces arrested a group aligned with Fatah. They would not reveal its size. Military sources said they were suspected of shooting at a military vehicle, hurling petrol bombs at Israeli cars, attacking a suspected collaborator and threatening Arabs who worked in Israel. A Palestinian kidnapped and beaten by unknown assailants in the West Bank died before reaching hospital Monday, sources said. They said the motive for the attack was unclear. Residents identified him as Ahmad Ibrahim Antouri, 26, from Qalqilya.

In Arab Jerusalem Sunday, 12 men beat to death Yassin Skafi, a 20-year-old Palestinian, apparently on suspicion of collaborating with Israel, police said. Throughout the West Bank, police searched for an Israeli Arab abducted at the weekend as he drove past Attil village. Relatives said Nizar Mohamad Daka, 28, was yanked from his car by masked youths. Sources said the abduction was over a family feud. Human rights Israel speaks with two voices on human rights — a sweet one to the international community and a shrill one justifying repressive actions in the occupied territories, a legislator said Monday. Amnon Rubinstein, member of parliament from the liberal

Shinui Party, said the way to ensure basic human rights for Palestinians under occupation was to incorporate the four Geneva conventions into Israeli law. Israel has signed the conventions and declared repeatedly that it observes their provisions. But the conventions are not binding because, unlike in other countries, they were never made law. Rubinstein said. The conventions are a series of treaties signed in Geneva, Switzerland, between 1864 and 1949 on the treatment of combatants and civilians in wartime. A bill to adopt the conventions as law will be debated Wednesday by parliament. Rubinstein, sponsor of the measure, told a news conference that it can succeed if the Labour Party requires its members to vote in favour.

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Maghreb states plan joint customs

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The leaders of five Maghreb countries ended a two-day summit Monday by agreeing to study creating a common customs service and agricultural market. The measures taken by the heads of state of Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania pushed the regional bloc they created 13 months ago, the Arab Maghreb Union, towards a more integration economy. An end-of-summit communiqué said agreements had been reached to encourage cross-border investment and to study the details of creating a common customs service and agriculture policy. On foreign policy, the leaders agreed to "morally, materially and diplomatically" support the Palestinian uprising. They also urged Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi to

defuse the war of words between Iraq and Kuwait over oil prices. Other details of decisions reached during the closed-door talks were not immediately available. Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, who took over the union's rotating sixth-month presidency in June from Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, hosted the gathering. Since creating the union last year, the five countries have agreed to waive passport checks at airports for their nationals, along the lines currently used within the 12-nation European Community (EC). Ben Ali said Saturday that the union would ask the EC to study the debt burdens of the Maghreb countries and review its aid policies towards the region. One of the long-term goals of the union is to create a common

economic market. Benjedid would like one by the end of the decade. In recent months, the five states have discussed creating a single union of Arab Maghreb airline and expanding rail and road transportation links between their countries. Their foreign ministers have also encouraged expanded dialogue and cooperation with the EC. The Maghreb states link 65 million people with a combined gross national product of more than \$100 billion a year. Only a fraction of current trade and investment is now conducted among member states. The summit denounced "threats and the recourse to force against any Arab country, considering them threats against the security of the Arab World in general."

Petra Bank scandal: Story unfolding of shady dealings, puzzling questions and chaos in account books

Chalabi's dubious banking activities make other scandals pale in comparison

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The intricacies of one of the worst scandals in Middle East banking history are expected to unfold soon when details of the collapsed Petra Bank "empire" emerge into the open through legal proceedings against those who are involved in the affair, according to officials and bankers. Varyingly described by officials and banking circles as the "smartest operator" and "the biggest crook in Jordanian banking history", Ahmad Chalabi, former chairman and director general of Petra Bank,

held the keys to a puzzle that took an elite team of banking and monetary experts a whole year to pry open. Chalabi left the country in a hurry in August last year when the authorities took control of his troubled banking institution. The exact means through which he departed the Kingdom remains unknown, and all kinds of theories and scenarios have been tossed around to find out how he left and his present whereabouts. "It is more a question of the total disarray in the bank's records and the sheer magnitude of violations of banking laws and disregard for all accepted norms of banking practices

which could make it one of the worst banking problems," according to a senior official familiar with the affair. "The volume of money involved may be little when compared to other similar cases elsewhere in the world, but the affairs of Petra Bank would make the collapses of some other banks look like Sunday school classes in comparison," added the official, who preferred anonymity. "One of the worst in Mideast" Economic analysts believe that the Petra Bank affair could be second only to if not at par with the collapse of Intra Bank, which broke down in 1967 after years of dominating the Middle East banking scene as the number one bank in

Lebanon. "The only difference is that while Intra Bank was the largest commercial bank in Lebanon, Petra Bank was the second largest commercial bank in Jordan," commented a noted analyst. Banking wizards called in to help investigations into the Petra Bank scandal, which sent shock waves through the entire banking system in the country, express shock and dismay at what is described as "the total chaos that awaited us in the books of accounts" at an institution widely hailed as having brought in some of the most modern banking techniques into the country. "It has been a really hard and difficult job," said Dr. Maher Waked, a member of an investigating team which stepped into the picture early this year after four months of inquiries revealed that it

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Ahmad Chalabi

Kuwait walks diplomatic high rope

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

KUWAIT — Kuwait's low-key response to Iraq's angry outburst against its oil policy has underlined the precarious position of the small but wealthy Gulf state in the face of threats from a mighty neighbour.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah has described the row that has rocked the Gulf as "a summer cloud" that he hoped would soon go away.

Diplomats said Kuwait could do little else but take the diplomatic high road since Iraq would prove far too strong a military opponent and Kuwait could not fully rely on allies such as the United States to step in to protect their oil supplies.

Despite the sabre-rattling rhetoric from Iraq, diplomats did not expect the dispute to escalate into armed conflict. Iraq has one million soldiers and a missile programme sharpened by eight years of war with Iran and Kuwait has only 20,300 men under arms.

Baghdad last week charged that Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were sabotaging its economy by producing too much oil as part of a conspiracy instigated by the United States to drive down world oil prices.

Iraq said the two Gulf states had robbed Iraq and the rest of the Arab world of billions of dollars in oil revenues through their over-production. It said it had lost \$14 billion so far this year and threatened to take unspecified action against the two if they continued this "dangerous policy."

Baghdad saved its sharpest barbs for Kuwait however, saying in a message to the Arab League that Kuwait had also stolen more than \$2.4 billion worth of crude oil reserves from Iraq since 1980 and had made other territorial infringements.

Kuwait responded in its own message to the league, saying that Iraq was stealing its reserves and occupying Kuwaiti land. It sent cabinet ministers on a tour of the Arab World to give its response to the Iraqi attack.

"Iraq's anger with OPEC over-producers has been simmering for some time, but nobody expected it to burst into flames the way it did," said one Western diplomat.

Iraq, which has nearly double the number of men under arms than there are Kuwaiti nationals, was especially hard hit by the six-month slide in oil prices this year because it was counting on oil revenues to fund its massive post-war reconstruction programme.

Regardless of the harshness of Iraq's words, the diplomats said they believed the quarrel would gradually subside as other Arab countries used their influence to calm tempers. Further efforts to resolve the dispute could be expected at a full meeting of OPEC starting in Geneva on Thursday.

But, they added, Kuwait would have to pay a price to finally settle the row.

A statement by the Kuwaiti parliament on Wednesday hinted that Iraq might be seeking compensation, and not simply future adherence to output quotas assigned by the Organisation of

Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"Kuwait bases its relations with all world nations on the principles of peace and justice and denounces the policies of violence, threats and blackmail," it said.

Kuwait felt betrayed by the Iraqi onslaught which was viewed by officials, ordinary Kuwaitis and the media as an act of gross ingratitude, the diplomats said.

Like most of the other Gulf states, Kuwait gave billions of dollars to Iraq to help finance its 1980-88 war against Iran. Kuwait officials estimate Kuwaiti grants and loans to Iraq during the eight years of war with Iran at more than \$30 billion.

The state-censored press has adopted a conciliatory tone since the start of the crisis, but editorials and radio commentaries have been filled with reminders of Kuwait's generous aid.

"It must have hurt them extra bad because it came from what they considered to be their long-term ally," one diplomat said.

Diplomats said Sheikh Sabah's comment that the row was no

more than a passing summer cloud was perhaps wiseful thinking.

But Kuwaitis took some comfort when Washington reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to protect friendly Arab states. The State Department comment in reaction to the Iraqi threats against Kuwait was given front-page coverage in local newspapers.

Kuwaiti oil tankers, most flying under the American flag, were given U.S. naval escort during the Iran-Iraq war after several Kuwaiti ships were attacked.

The diplomats and other analysts said Iraq would continue to stall on moves towards a settlement of a long-running border dispute which led to the Iraqi charges of theft of crude oil reserves and other territorial infringements.

Noting that the two countries have come close to war over an undefined desert region on their frontier twice since 1961, the diplomats said the issue was Baghdad's best bargaining chip in extracting concessions from Kuwait.

Peres wins Labour vote but Shamir savours victory

TEL AVIV (R) — Labour Party Chairman Shimon Peres has defeated arch-rival Yitzhak Rabin in a bruising contest that appears to open the way to a long leadership struggle while strengthening Israel's right-wing government.

Peres scored the surprise win Sunday in a Labour Party central committee vote on who should lead the fight against Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Likud party. Public opinion polls say Rabin is the only Labour leader who can defeat Likud.

"Likud is very happy tonight because Shimon Peres is the weaker opponent. We believe the polls," a senior government official told Reuters.

"Likud feared a Rabin victory because he would have pushed for a unity government," he said. "Shamir is growing to like the new government. He is less interested in having a unity government and thus was less interested in seeing Rabin win."

The 54 per cent to 46 per cent vote against Rabin's motion to settle the leadership contest this month will touch off a protracted power struggle within Labour until elections next year, relieving Likud of an effective parliamentary opposition.

Peres led Labour out of a coalition with Likud in March and then toppled Shamir over his refusal to accept a U.S. proposal for talks with Palestinians. The talks in Cairo were to prepare Israeli-sponsored elections in the occupied territories.

Peres was given the first chance to form a new government devoted to the peace talks but was humiliated when two religious parliamentarians withdrew their support at the last minute.

Within three months of an historic parliamentary win, Labour was in opposition for the first time since 1984 and Shamir was back in power, at the head of the most hardline government in Israeli history and on a potential collision course with Washington.

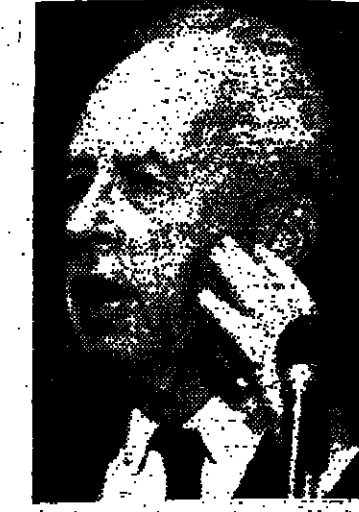
Analysts said Peres's win Sunday did not erase his image among Israelis as an electoral loser.

He has failed to win a clear victory in four general elections since replacing then-Prime Minister Rabin as Labour head in 1977.

On July 12 Rabin won the first round when 60 of the 100 members in the Labour executive backed his request to advance the timing of the leadership contest. It recommended the 1,400-strong central committee should take



Shimon Peres



Yitzhak Rabin

the same decision.

The seven-hour meeting was at times a hissing match between Peres supporters, who made personal attacks on Rabin, and Rabin backers who argued Peres was well past his prime.

"Peres was a great leader in his time, not today..." said parliamentarian Shimon Shitreet, a Rabin supporter.

"Even Moses accepted the announcement he must quit. But Shimon Peres refuses."

Several Labour members have urged both Peres, 66, and Rabin, 68, to step down with dignity to allow a younger generation to take over the party reins.

Four younger Labour Party leaders, including former army chief-of-staff Mordchai Gur, 60, have said they will join the party leadership contest.

"I fell in love with my party again," declared a happy Peres, whose victory came as a surprise even to some of his own supporters.

"The party and the country shall benefit from this victory," he said.

Just before official results of the vote were announced at the end of the seven-hour meeting here, dancing and singing supporters surrounded Peres, and many were kissing and hugging their leader.

The committee voted by secret ballot on when and in what form elections for party chairman should be held. It also voted on whether to have a candidate for prime minister separate from the party chairman, a demand opposed by Peres.

According to official results, some 54 per cent of the 1,212 Labour members present supported Peres and decided to postpone the leadership contest, as

opposed to Rabin's 46 per cent. The figures were calculated after exclusion of some 10 per cent who abstained.

"I accept the majority decision. I think the great number of central committee members who saw the need for a change but the majority decided. I believe that from now on, the party should be united... and organize itself as an opposition confronting Likud," Rabin said.

The two Labour leaders then briefly shook hands.

Although both Rabin and Peres appealed for party unity, and Peres promised not to "settle accounts," observers predicted that Labour will remain split and unable to present a strong opposition.

"We will see two organized and hostile camps, with leaders who hardly speak with each other... a kind of prolonged war of attrition. Likud may forget about opposition, it will have an easy life in the government," said Israeli Radio's political observer, Haiman Crispal.

Gur, a senior Labour member and a Rabin supporter, claimed that "Peres's victory has weakened the party."

"We thought we should change the leadership to lead a strong, active opposition. With Peres it would be very difficult. We shall do our best but I'm afraid it would not be as strong as it could have been," Gur said.

Bitter internal fighting was evident during Sunday's debate.

As the elderly leaders verbally attacked each other, angry young backers of the two former prime ministers scuffled near the podium at Tel Aviv's exhibition grounds. Security guards separated the two sides before injuries resulted.

U.S. diplomat discourages settlers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Jewish settlers in the Israeli-occupied territories met the top U.S. diplomat in West Jerusalem Monday but left discouraged after being told they were an obstacle to peace.

U.S. Consul General Philip Wilcox told the four settler leaders, all American citizens, that Washington opposed their settlement of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The settlers said a two-hour meeting at the consulate in Jewish West Jerusalem had failed to convince Wilcox the 90,000 Jews and 1.75 million Palestinians of the occupied lands deserved to be treated with even-handedness.

"What was discouraging to me was to see that when pressed on

many examples of unfairness and inequity... he consistently fell back on this policy of our communities being an obstacle to peace," Marc Zell, formerly of Washington, told Reuters.

A consulate statement said Wilcox had told the group that Washington viewed settlements as a unilateral decision to use the land resources without negotiation between Israelis and Palestinians.

Zell, chairman of a recently formed group to represent the settlers' cause abroad, said they hoped to prove they were a growing political force despite the 31-month-old uprising.

Co-chairman Bobby Brown was pleased that Wilcox and a United Nations envoy had both

agreed to meet the group this month.

"It shows in general a greater recognition that we are factor in any future equation that will occur, that 100,000 Jews that are now sitting in Judea and Samaria, growing at between 12 and 16 per cent a year, will have to be taken into consideration on the ultimate destiny of that land," Brown said.

The settlers assailed U.S. human rights reports they said ignored violations against Jews in the occupied territories. They also accused the consulate of hampering peace efforts by encouraging visiting U.S. dignitaries to meet Arabs and not Jews there.

Israeli settlers have killed

Palestinians and gone on rampages through Arab villages destroying property, but Zell insisted these represented an extremist fringe.

"There has been a tendency by State Department representatives here and abroad to see residents of our communities as a fanatic element. It's simply not the case," said Zell, a lawyer.

"Because our community has basically been silent in this sphere up until now, these charges have gone largely unanswered. Our job is to set the record straight," he said.

The consulate statement said Wilcox urged the settlers to support early Israeli-Palestinian negotiations to end the conflict and ensure peace.

Taiwan to send envoys to discuss Saudi ties

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan will send two envoys to Riyadh Tuesday to negotiate future relations with Saudi Arabia following the kingdom's switch of recognition to China, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

Taiwan severed diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia Sunday after Riyadh established ties with Beijing. But both Taiwan and Saudi Arabia said they would continue economic and other links.

Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien told reporters Monday he was not optimistic about the negotiations. He said there had been no contacts with senior Saudi officials since June 1.

"They have not even revealed what they expect out of this round of talks," said Chien. Chien tendered his resignation to Premier Hau Pei-Tsun Monday, taking responsibility for the diplomatic break. Hau asked him to stay on.

Taiwan is now recognised by only 27 countries.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has accepted an invitation to visit Beijing following the establishment of diplomatic relations, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said Sunday.

An exchange of letters between Saudi and Chinese leaders, released by the Saudi Press Agency, described the establishment of ties with China as an important event promoting world peace and stability.

Qian, addressing a news conference in Jeddah Sunday at the end of a three-day visit, said Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal had also been invited to Beijing but no date had been set for either visit.

"Following the establishment of these ties it is certain that economic and trade relations between the two countries will be totally developed," said Qian, who left Sunday night for a three-day visit to Cyprus.

Saudi newspapers Monday hailed the decision to establish diplomatic ties with China.

Al Riyadh said China was "leading for superpower standing with an influence on international decisions."

Algerian front demands dissolution of parliament

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian Muslim fundamentalist leader Abbasi Madani Sunday reiterated his demand for a dissolution of parliament following the sweeping victory of his Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in local elections last month.

FIS President Madani told a news conference he would hold talks with the government to discuss an appropriate date for fresh legislative elections.

"We first of all address ourselves to the president who

must as soon as possible dissolve the assembly, which should be renewed before a date we agree on," he said.

If President Chadli Benjedid did not dissolve parliament quickly, Madani said, a national referendum should be held on the issue, or else deputies should themselves resign en masse.

The current parliament, not due for re-election until 1992, is entirely composed of deputies from the ruling National Liberation Front which ran a one-party

state for 28 years.

Madani said Benjedid appeared to be hesitating to dissolve parliament. "We believed the government would keep its promises and go all the way. But what appears now is the contrary."

The Muslim fundamentalist council that governs Algeria has called for a ban on co-education classrooms, the Algerian news agency APS said.

It said Sunday night that the Algiers provincial people's

assembly, run by the FIS which won local elections last month, made the recommendation Saturday.

The FIS won control of virtually every major city at the polls. The provincial council of Constantine in the east made a similar bid to separate the sexes earlier this month.

Authorities have said that any segregation of classrooms would have to be authorised by the education ministry.

Rushdie film sparks British controversy

LONDON (AP) — A British film board has banned a Pakistani film which portrays author Salman Rushdie as the murderous agent of an international conspiracy.

The Independent newspaper Sunday reported that the British board of film classification refused to license distribution of "international guerrillas" because police had advised that it could be criminally libelous.

"Many Muslims will protest to their MPs (members of parliament) and other people... this is double standards," Mohammad Fayyaz of Tooting Video, who owns worldwide distribution rights to the film, told Independent radio.

Rushdie has been in hiding under guard since February 1989 because of death threats over his novel, "The Satanic Verses."

The 3½-hour film portrays Rushdie as the agent of a Jewish conspiracy against Islam. The film shows the author torturing and killing Muslims, until at last Rushdie is killed by a bolt of

lightning. But the Salman Rushdie Defence Committee said it was "debatable" whether the film would have the effect the British film board feared.

"It is also debatable whether the majority of British Muslims would condone, let alone support, its message," said committee spokesman Frances D'Souza.

She said Rushdie himself believed the film "should be in the public domain so that any libel or offence may be dealt with according to the due process of law."

The banning order, she said, was partly caused by pressure from Scotland Yard, and stemmed from fear of breaking the law rather than any legal process.

The Independent said Fayyaz was notified of the ruling in a letter from James Ferman, director of the board of film classification. Ferman said the film could be licensed if the Rushdie character were given a different name, and if all speeches calling for his death were excised.

Postcard campaign seeks hostage release

WASHINGTON (AP) — Organisers of a postcard campaign seeking the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon are asking the public to send a new wave of cards to the White House.

The first campaign — in which 450,000 postcards were mailed to President George Bush — was started last year to show the administration that the public cares about the hostages and wants them released, said Anne Zickl, who is running the Campaign for the Journalists' Committee to Free Terry Anderson.

Anderson, the Associated Press' chief Middle East correspondent, was taken hostage March 16, 1985. He is the longest held of the 16 Western hostages in the Middle East.

"We do believe that the heightened awareness across the country helped bring about the release of Polhill and Reed," Zickl said.

Frank Reed, director of the Lebanese International School, was freed April 30 after 3½ years in captivity. Robert Polhill, assistant professor at Beirut University College, was held almost 2½ years before being released April 22.

Zickl said the idea for the postcard campaign started with a journalist committee member who heard a State Department official say the American people did not care about the hostages.

"The American people are not passive on issues of human rights if they are informed," she said. She said that once the campaign started getting publicity, she could not answer the telephone fast enough.

"I had people call me and say 'we didn't even know those people were still there,'" she said.

The new campaign began July 4. The postcard carries photographs of the hostages with the message:

"A nation that chooses not to pursue freedom for an innocent captive resigns its own freedom. Those who choose not to listen will themselves cry out and never be heard."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
16:00 News Summary
16:10 Local programme
16:45 Programme review
16:50 News in Arabic
16:55 Arabic series
17:30 Programme review
17:40 Local programme
17:50 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:50 Fusion
18:10 Des chiffres et de lettres
18:30 Tel Part Tel File
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Golden Girls
21:10 Heart of the High Country
22:00 News in English
22:30 Paradise
23:10 Police Squad

PRAYER TIMES

04:10 Fajr
05:40 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:40 Dhuhr
16:25 Asr
19:40 Maghreb
21:14 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweithah Tel. 810740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terzian Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assyrian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 649332.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./max. temp. 18 / 31

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Agaba 25 / 39
Dharrat 20 / 37
Jordan Valley 20 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36, Agaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Agaba 31 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Hussein Haddad 731267
Dr. Mustafa Tammoun 894480
Dr. Khalil Al-Jabali 740740
Dr. Mohammed Al-Abedi 778599
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 670555
Nakirah pharmacy 623672
Al Salim pharmacy 636720
Yaacoub pharmacy 646445
Samioun pharmacy 637660

AMMAN:
Dr. Ahmad Abu Bakr (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Abdul Karim Khushnoud (—)
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630941
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 921228
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 639800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 67467
Complaints 67467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone information 121
Overseas Calls 610630
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
Company

RU Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Church Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akhdah Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Maha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 849845
Al-Munassar Hospital 67222/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/91
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Balfin, Al-Muhajir 777101/3
Al-Balad, J. Ashrafiah 775111/26
Army, Madia 896111/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6124030
Anfal Hospital 674135

ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)91071
Bn Sima Hospital (09)960732
HBHD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275355
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272225
Bn Al-Nadwa Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)3200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:30 Baghdad (RJ)
07:15 Moscow (RJ)
08:00 Jeddah (RJ)
08:30 Beirut (RJ)
09:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45 Agaba (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 Dubai (RJ)
11:30 Kuwait (RJ)
12:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
13:00 Jeddah (RJ)
13:15 Kuwait (RJ)
13:30 Dubai (RJ)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
15:00 Beirut (RJ)
15:15 Tripoli (RJ)
15:45 Rome (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:00 Agaba (RJ)
08:15 London (RJ)
08:30 Belgrade (RJ)
09:15 Tripoli (RJ)
10:00 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
10:45 Vienna (RJ)
11:30 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:00 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
12:15 Paris (RJ)
12:30 Larnaca (RJ)
12:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
13:00 Doha (RJ)
13:15 Jeddah (RJ)
13:30 Kuwait (RJ)
13:45 Dubai (RJ)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
15:00 Beirut (RJ)
15:15 Tripoli (RJ)
15:45 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:00 Beirut (RJ)
10:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Beirut (RJ)
13:00 Beirut (RJ)
14:00 Beirut (RJ)
15:00 Beirut (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lbs per kg

Sudan, a shattered country, needs national reconciliation, ex-leader says

By Sahar Qara'eem and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — Restoration of democratic life in Sudan can be realised only after national reconciliation has been achieved, the Sudanese People's Liberation Front (SPLF) of John Garang based in Ethiopia. Several rounds of peace talks initiated by the Mahdi government as well as the Bashir regime with the rebels have failed to make any headway to resolve the conflict, which, Swareddahab said, dates back to 1955.

The field marshal, who was interviewed by the Jordan Times during a visit he paid to Jordan to attend a meeting of a relief committee chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, rejected Garang's claims that underdevelopment in the south and domination of the mainly Arab northerners over the mostly animist southerners were the root causes of the conflict.

He pointed out that the conflict had erupted even before Sudan gained independence from Britain in 1956 and went on and off until 1972 when an agreement reached in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, managed to suspend open hostilities until the latest flare-up in 1983.

Swareddahab said Israeli support for the rebels was as old as the conflict itself, which, he said, was fuelled by the British colonial power through deliberate negligence of the south and "warnings to the southerners that they would end up as slaves of the Arabs in the north."

In the post-independence period, he said, consecutive regimes had drawn up plans to set up plantations and sugar industries in the south in a bid to develop the area but all such efforts were in vain because of the civil war. "Who was responsible for foiling these plans except the rebel forces?" he asked.

"I do not know what Garang wants," he said. "When I was head of the military council I invited him to come to Khartoum and sit down to discuss what he wants, but he never came. The present regime also invited him several times; again he did not respond."

Sudan, plagued by famine and drought and compounded by civil war.

According to Swareddahab, the biggest hurdle facing Sudan is the revolt in the south, led by the Sudanese People's Liberation Front (SPLF) of John Garang based in Ethiopia. Several rounds of peace talks initiated by the Mahdi government as well as the Bashir regime with the rebels have failed to make any headway to resolve the conflict, which, Swareddahab said, dates back to 1955.

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Swareddahab, one of the most respected Sudanese leaders in the Arab and international scene, lashed out at Israel for its support of the rebels. "They have supplied tanks and armoured personnel carriers to the rebels," he said, explaining that it was in the Jewish state's interests to keep Sudan preoccupied with internal problems so that it cannot be involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Once we are able to end the problem in the south, all other problems of Sudan can be tackled," Swareddahab asserted. "This requires the presence of a strong unified front to deal with Garang either peacefully or militarily."

"Achieving a united front in north Sudan will leave little opportunity for Garang to play around," he said. "The military option is there, but any such option should be coupled with political solutions," he added.

Swareddahab estimated the number of actual SPLF fighters at over 50,000 and said most of them were trained in Cuba. On the other side, he said, the Sudanese army is almost three times this number.

The career officer, who has undergone military training in Jordan decades ago, shied away from answering a question on whether the army was well-equipped to exercise the military option against the rebels. But, he said, "the regime needs to be in a good, strong military position," and lamented what he described as apathy on the part of consecutive governments in Sudan to take the rebellion seriously and turn attention to the armed forces.

Swareddahab believes that the Bashir regime could stay in power for several years, particularly after the execution three months ago of 28 military officers who were accused of involvement in a coup attempt.

Without indicating whether he supported or opposed the

executions which drew wide condemnation from many Arab and international circles as well as Sudan itself, the field marshal observed that the Bashir regime had consolidated its grip on power by using the execution as a deterrent against further bids to stage coups d'etat.

"It reminds me of the execution of five officers involved in a coup attempt against the military regime in 1957," he said. "The spate of coup attempts in the immediate post-independence period was brought to a swift end with these executions, and the military government stayed in power for another six years without disruption."

'Bold economic steps'

Wearing the traditional Sudanese garb and relaxing in his hotel room, Swareddahab described as "bold steps" some of the measures taken by the military regime to address the chronic economic problems in Sudan.

He pointed out that Sudan, one of the biggest producers of sugar in Africa, was never an exporter of the commodity until last year when it exported 20,000 tonnes after the regime reorganised the sugar distribution system and blocked all efforts to smuggle sugar across its borders as it was the case over the past decades.

Another move by the Bashir government in the context of economy, he said, was the retirement of about 50,000 security personnel.

"The regime found that these people were redundant when seen in light of the needs of the country," he said. "It was really a bold decision."

Among other steps taken by the government, he said, were major allocations for the agricultural sector in the budget and encouragement to commercial banks to grant loans to farmers.

He also noted that the Revolutionary Command Council headed by Bashir had been organising almost weekly meetings attended by people's



Abdul Rahman Swareddahab

representatives to discuss the people's needs and the situation in the country.

Swareddahab explained why signals coming out of Khartoum have led to a widespread belief that Bashir had aligned himself with the Islamic Salvation Front, the leading Muslim fundamentalist group in Sudan. "It is very clear that about 90 per cent of the Muslim population of Sudan support the implementation of Sharia (Islamic law) as is evident in the fact that the three major parties which dominated the elected parliament (during the Mahdi era) advocated it," he said. He further explained that it was only natural for Bashir to cooperate with the dominant trend in the country.

According to Swareddahab, almost all Arab countries support Bashir and his policies. "In the beginning (immediately after the June 30, 1989 coup) they just watched, and extended support when it became clear that he was going to stay," he said.

Swareddahab said the national reconciliation efforts he was involved in targeted leaders of the 40 or so political parties in Sudan which were outlawed by Bashir when he took power. Contacts are continuing, he said voicing confidence that sooner or later "the people of Sudan could be brought together."

Palestinian official criticises Moscow for appeasing Israel

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Soviet Union Sunday evening came under vehement attack by a member of a leading Palestinian guerrilla group for allowing the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine to continue.

"Doesn't Moscow realise that its detente with Washington which brought about an agreement on the Jewish immigration is bound to create new conflicts in the Arab region," asked Mohammed Al Maslami, member of the political bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and member of the National Committee for the Support of the Intifada in a lecture delivered at the Soviet Cultural Centre in Amman.

In his lecture, entitled "Assessment of Palestinian-Soviet Relations," Maslami said that the Arabs were grateful to the Soviet

Union for supplying them with modern weapons to defend themselves against Israel's aggression and for its positive mediation among the various Palestinian groups in 1985.

But, he said, "positive developments in Arab-Soviet relations in the past can by no means turn our eyes off the ongoing Soviet Jewish immigration which is bound to have detrimental effects on the Palestinian Intifada and the Arab World at large."

"Why does the Soviet Union open the door wide for this immigration to our homeland, why does it host Zionist conferences and why has it stopped advocating the idea of an international conference?" asked Maslami with bitterness.

He said that the Soviet Union was dispatching tourism, cultural and artistic delegations to Israel who return with praise of what they call a "democratic Israel" and an "advanced Jewish state" which continues to slaughter

Arab men, women and children, while similar delegations from the West return only to condemn Israel's atrocities against the Palestinian people and its human rights violations.

Intifada is bound to continue and the Palestinian people can never surrender or give up the struggle for freedom, undaunted by the seemingly unsurmountable difficulties and obstacles," Maslami said.

Maslami said that 1,163 Palestinians were killed in the ongoing Intifada, 88,000 had been arrested and 2,009 homes had been demolished.

"The Israelis uprooted 188,000 fruit trees from Arab lands and stole Arab property estimated at \$377 billion since 1967, Maslami added.

He said at least 266 Israeli soldiers were killed since the outbreak of the Intifada in December 1987 and 2,063 others have been injured.

Protection of industrial property can spur investment, transfer of technology

AMMAN (J.T.) — The lack of proper laws for protection of industrial property in the Kingdom is partly responsible for the limited national investment in industrial research and development over the past years, Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz said Monday.

"Proper and effective laws in this regard can not only create incentives for investments with local capital but will also attract foreign investments and help Jordan benefit from modern technology in the production and services sectors and can contribute to industrial development in the Arab World," the minister said in an opening speech at a three-day meeting on industrial property which opened in Amman Monday.

Such matters can be dealt with through coordination among various industrial property offices in the Arab World which, the minister said, can play a leading role in promoting industrial research and development.

"The Ministry of Industry and Trade is now revising the legal

framework of Jordanian industries with the purpose of modernising them in a manner that would help national development and achieve the aspired coordination with the Arab countries," he said.

"Industrial property rights should be protected and given priority in the modernisation process, simply because of their relevance to socio-economic development and contribution towards the transfer of modern technology to the Arab World," the minister pointed out.

The Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) organised the three-day seminar in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the aim of promoting industrial development in the Arab region.

A participant from West Germany and a UNDP representative addressed the opening session underlining the need for the Arab countries' industrial businesses to exchange expertise,

organise training courses and conduct field tours of industrial projects with the purpose of achieving the required inter-Arab coordination.

According to the organisers, the subjects to be tackled will cover industrial property rights and their contribution towards technological development, trade and economic relations among developing nations, the relationship between industrial property and marketing of industrial products in the Arab World.

WIPO aims at promoting the protection of intellectual property in the world through cooperating among states and, where appropriate, with other international organisations. It also centralises the administration of unions which deal with legal and technical aspects of intellectual property.

Under an agreement with the United Nations, WIPO is recognised as a specialised agency responsible for promoting creative intellectual activity and for facilitating the transfer of technology to developing countries.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Oman

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'eed of Oman in which he congratulated him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people on Oman's Al Nabha (national) day. His Majesty wished Sultan Qaboos good health and happiness and the Omani people further progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince receives Pakistani judge

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received at the Royal Court Monday Pakistani Chief Islamic Judge Sheikh Ghalib Muhammad Khan who is currently on a visit to Jordan. The meeting was attended by Jordan's Chief Islamic Judge Sheikh Muhammad Mheilan.

92,000 cross to W. Bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — More than 92,000 Jordanian and Palestinian citizens crossed the River Jordan into the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during this summer season which started June 13 and will continue until July 20, according to a report published Monday in Al Rai Arabic daily. Colonel Hammad Al Atari, director of the Bridges Security Department told Al Rai that 56,000 persons have crossed to the West Bank over King Hussein Bridge and 36,000 over Prince Mohammad Bridge.

Jordanian technicians to be trained in Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Cooperative Society (JCO) Deputy Director General Mohammad Masalha left Amman Monday for Alexandria, Egypt at the head of a Jordanian delegation comprising several technicians working with JCO. Masalha will discuss with Egyptian officials the prospect of training Jordanian technicians at Al Ma'moura institute in Egypt. JCO, which was established with technical aid from West Germany, runs several agricultural machinery stations in the Kingdom.

Jordan celebrates New Year

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan along with other Islamic nations Monday celebrated Al Hijra (Islamic New Year) and religious celebrations were held in various areas of the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, which organised the ceremonies, said in a statement that a major celebration would be held at Al Hussein Mosque downtown Amman Tuesday afternoon during which

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Fagih and at least 200 Parliament members will address the worshippers.

On the eve of the occasion the Ministry of Awqaf issued a statement urging Muslims to adhere to the true spirit of Islamic faith and Islamic teachings and urged them to step up efforts for liberating the holy shrines in occupied Jerusalem.

All government departments

and public institutions remained closed Monday to mark the occasion.

The Royal Court announced that His Majesty King Hussein received cables of good wishes from kings and heads of state of Arab and Islamic nations.

Cables also came from Prime Minister Mudar Badran, speakers of the two houses of parliament and heads of government departments.

Brotherhood renews criticism of government

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government is dragging its feet in implementing the administrative reforms it pledged to do upon its inception in December 1989 and has failed so far to present parliament with a comprehensive plan for such reforms, according to Abdul Latif Arabiyat, member of the Lower House of Parliament and spokesman for the Parliamentary Islamic bloc.

"Six months have passed without Parliament hearing anything from the government about its plans for reforms or a clear strategy to deal with the question of soaring prices and the problem

of unemployment," Arabiyat said in a statement published by Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

"When the present government was formed, it presented a 14-point policy statement for which it received a vote of confidence from Parliament," said Arabiyat. "It is true that the government succeeded to return the passport, to free political prisoners and open the way for political freedoms among other things, but there is no justification for the government's delaying measures to deal with pressing administrative issues," said Arabiyat.

He contended that government officials still had large numbers of corrupt people who, despite their past abuses of government authorities, still hold influential positions.

Arabiyat said that his bloc in Parliament was currently making an assessment of the present government's achievements and hinted that it might support a no-confidence vote in the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Arabiyat said Jordan is in need of a national salvation government and hinted that he could accept to take part in such government in the future.

Jordan, Egypt to discuss implementation of projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — A joint Jordanian-Egyptian committee will convene in Amman Tuesday to prepare the ground for a meeting here later this month by the Jordanian-Egyptian higher joint committee which is co-chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries.

The preparatory committee is expected to discuss bilateral cooperation in trade, economy and industry and look into means of boosting the volume of trade exchanged between them, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The preparatory committee, Petra said, will discuss means of promoting cooperation in agricul-

ture, general investments and industry, and will examine the operations of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company which is owned by Egypt, Jordan and Iraq.

The company operates the Aqaba-Nweibeh land-sea route between Aqaba and Sinai.

Egyptian Minister of State for International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah will arrive in Amman Tuesday at the head of a team from his ministry and other concerned departments to take part in the talks with the Jordanian team.

Makramallah has said that the two sides would discuss transport and communications issues as

well as projects implemented under the \$50-million-capital holding company and the prospects of joining the Egyptian-Jordanian national grids with those of Syria and Turkey.

He said that the preparatory committee would prepare an agenda for the higher committee meeting on July 28.

The two countries are implementing projects for producing lean meat and fish in Egypt and fertilisers in Jordan and are involved in carrying out a four-year scheme for linking their national grids.

The higher committee last met in Cairo in January 1989.

Farmers sell grains worth JD 7.5m

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture has announced that August 1, 1990 will be the last date for receiving cereals produced in Jordan and that the centres assigned for purchasing the grain will be closed for this year.

The announcement was made by Dr. Sami Suma, the ministry's secretary-general, who said that the centres have so far purchased cereals from local farmers worth JD 7.5 million.

The ministry normally pays the locally produced cereals at higher rates than the international markets in a bid to encourage local farmers to produce more.

INFORMATION SPECIALIST

Applicants are invited to apply for the post of Banking Information Specialist. The responsibilities of the incumbent will include monitoring the performance of financial institutions using computerized data information system to report progress and analyze results and maintaining accounts. The successful candidate will possess a degree in Business Administration and/or Management of Information Systems. The candidate should have competence in operating and modifying computerized data systems and possess public relations skills. Knowledge of the business environment in Jordan would be an advantage.

Interested candidates to submit CVs to: P.O. Box 830703 Amman, Jordan

Latest date to receive applications shall not be later than 2nd August 1990. Notifications for interview will follow.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Radaima and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by ten Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery — tel. No. 699914.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting Arabian and other horses by Henri Busy at the Philadelphia Hotel.
- ★ Comprehensive Islamic book exhibition at Yarmouk University.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concerts by the Jordan Armed Forces Band (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.), a local folk troupe (7:00 - 8:00) and a Yemal folk troupe (8:30 - 9:30 p.m.) at the Forum.
- ★ Poets and poetry at Artemis Steps (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

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Dynamics of union and break-ups

UNDER THE pressure of several centrifugal forces, Moscow is now renegotiating the terms of the union between its varied constituent parts. The pressure is not coming from Lithuania and its Baltic neighbours, Latvia and Estonia alone, but from other regions of the Soviet Union as well, notably from Armenia, and its neighbours.

This shake-up in the Soviet structure was inevitable since many of its components are so diametrically opposed to one another on most counts and have little commonality of interests between them. The forces that glued the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics together till now are giving way to the stresses and pulls of democratically arrived at public opinion and sentiment. In the long run, the Soviet Union would be better off without the existing parts that have little or no affinity with the core and spirit of the country. What could emerge from the ongoing negotiations in Moscow about the future structure of the Soviet Union could be a reinvigorated country that has divested itself of existing liabilities imposed upon it by peoples that are so alien to the rest of the country, culturally and politically speaking.

This restructuring of the union would also accelerate the process of modernisation in it and in due course uplift its stature as a contemporary nation-state on par with other modern centres of power in the new world of the twenty-first century. The dynamics of the new order in the Soviet Union would also offer the breakaway parts of the existing union to enjoy the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination and a greater opportunity to enjoy their respective cultural orientations. The first sign of the failure or success of these ongoing negotiations would appear when Lithuania and Moscow are able to strike an amiable deal that would set the stage for other provinces in the Soviet Union which are also seeking sovereignty and association with Moscow.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The new Hijra (Islamic) year is the topic for Monday's editorial in Al Ra'i Arabic daily which urged the Arabs to remember the Prophet Mohammad and his sacrifices at the dawn of Islam. The paper said that the anniversary is a reminder to the Muslims everywhere to try to follow in the footsteps of their Prophet and to learn from his great lessons and his command of the faithful. The anniversary comes at a time when the enemies of Islam and the Arab Nation are arming themselves with all types of weapons to impose their hegemony on the Arabs, benefiting from divisions and differences among Arab countries, and the weakness of the Arab will to fight and resist aggression, the paper noted. It said that one can learn the meaning of sacrifice and strength will from the Prophet's actions when he was fighting the enemies of his faith, and also when he had to take refuge in Medina to rally his forces and make a comeback to liberate the holy shrines in Mecca. On this occasion Muslims around the world can only remember the usurped Al Aqsa Mosque and the other holy places, and should re-emphasise their determination to double their efforts to liberate them and end Israel's occupation, the paper added. It said that the Hijra anniversary is an occasion for Muslims to display altruism and sacrifice, copying the example of the Prophet and his leadership at the dawn of Islam.

Writing in Al Ra'i Monday, columnist Mahmud Al Rimawi says that the Iraqi-Kuwaiti row over oil production and prices serves as a new test for Arab solidarity which was pledged by Arab leaders at the Amman summit and enhanced at the Baghdad summit. The writer says that the current dispute constitutes a real threat to this solidarity especially if the door is opened for foreign intervention because foreign forces can only hope to exploit this dispute for their own selfish interest. For its part, Iraq has always reiterated its stand that it will never interfere in other countries' affairs and never to resort to force in dealing with Arab states, says the writer. On the other hand Kuwait has always sought to put out rather than start fires wherever they might break out in the Arab World, he adds. These positive stands and the latest statement by the leaders in Baghdad and Kuwait are very strong indicators that the two sides will soon end this row and reach a settlement, the writer points out. Given goodwill and determination to settle the issue peacefully, he says, the two sides will indeed move forward towards a lasting settlement; but the Arab leaderships ought to find a way that can ensure no confrontation of any kind, and a formula to settle differences through direct contacts that are real signs of amity and close brotherly relations which should prevail and should help protect the Arab Order.

Commenting on message sent to His Majesty King Hussein from the Kuwaiti Emir concerning the on-going dispute with Iraq over oil production, Al Dastour daily said that King Hussein has been at the forefront in all pan-Arab endeavours to bolster solidarity among Arab states. The paper said that Jordan has adopted a firm policy of close cooperation with all Arab states and constant moves at all fronts to protect the Arab order. Jordan realises too well the need to preserve the unity of Arab ranks at a time when Israel's defence minister flies to Washington to hatch more conspiracies against the Arabs as his hawkish government declares its intention to take the most extreme actions against the Arab people of Palestine, the paper noted. It said that the common enemy is bent on keeping the Arab countries involved in small and side battles, forgetting about the Zionist occupation of Palestinian land. We hope, said the paper, that the Jordanian and Arab mediation efforts will be crowned with success, and end the dispute in the Gulf for good.

Amman political chamber?

By Basem Sakthijha

Following a prolonged labour that lasted several months and involved lengthy deliberations and meetings, the Jordanian leftist groups succeeded in declaring the birth of the Jordanian Nationalist Arab Democratic Coalition (JNADC).

If Signatures on the declaration statement were to be taken as an indication of a trend — then it looks like a good proportion of the leftist forces in Jordan are now to join forces with others represent the majority of political forces that exist in the Kingdom.

The coalition groups the Jordanian Communist Party, The Popular Front, The democratic People's Party (HASHD) and Fateh... representing three different nationalistic political streams as well as grouping together prominent political personalities who are not affiliated to any known political party.

It should also be pointed out that the following leftist political personalities are not included in the coalition although they form an important section of the national political life in Jordan: Hamad Al Farhan, Sulaiman Al Hadidi, Amin Shugair, Hussein Mjalli and Dr. Jamal Al Shaer, in addition to two political groupings and Communist Party splinter factions.

Indeed, a dialogue between the various elements of this coalition started a year ago in an attempt to enter as one entity in the 1989 parliamentary elections, but according to observers, pure "selfishness" prevented them from reaching a consensus; and the result was that each separate political party preferred to enter the elections independently. This was also one way for sounding out the views of the Jordanian

Public and determining the real weight of each of these various political groups and parties.

The observers believe that the election results came as a severe blow to the independent "political pattern" and way of thinking adopted by the leftists since the 1950s, prompting them to understand that unifying their ranks has now become inevitable for their survival.

The observers also believe that the growing power of the Islamic forces in Jordan and the region, at large, has driven the leftists into recognising the futility of trying to make any political moves individually...

Observers point out that the recent developments on the Jordanian political scene in which there was close coordination among various political groups, such as the return march to the bridge earlier this year to which leftist and independent were able to bring thousands in spite of a public boycott by the Muslim Brotherhood, prompted them to unite and move together.

The leftist coalition has now emerged with a pure and bright image, but observers hope that this image will not be marred by regression to the old style of political thinking that had persisted over the past three decades.

A noted veteran leftist politician says: We are concerned about this coalition, and hope that the leftists will not revert to their earlier unsuccessful experiments. The directly referred to a general secretariat coordinating the work of the nationalist forces in the 1970s and the 1980s which failed to come up with a practical formula to mobilise the Jordanian nationalist political life.

"The general secretariat which represented all national-

ist political forces in the country did not add anything to the Jordanian political life and left no imprints," the leftist said. "I really rule out the possibility that any of the signatories would be committed to a unified list in any future parliamentary election, simply because past experiences had showed that certain groups and factions are only concerned with ensuring for themselves political positions at the expense of the other independent forces," the same leftist noted.

The new coalition has not yet created a general secretariat and it looks as though there is no consensus yet among the leftists about this important point, he continues.

He concludes that the coalition could be no more than a gathering of Jordanian politicians designed to pave the way for coordinating efforts. But the big question is whether this coalition which has taken a year to emerge will be able to confront the growing Islamic torrent?

In an attempt to answer this question, the veteran politician says that the matter is not easy at all because it requires from each group to forget and transcend the negative attitudes of the past and start to deal with one another on totally new bases.

He also says that the present coalition partners are not in harmony since the coalition groups the Jordanian Communist Party, the Palestinian Fateh group and Jordanian-Palestinian groupings.

This set-up casts doubts on the prospect of this coalition's survival, the politician adds.

But he also notes that the coalition members could benefit from the mistakes of the past, and it is hoped that the coalition would not serve as a mere "Amman political chamber."

Foreclosed by destiny

By Paul Hopkins

TO some it may appear risky to speak about the future in the Middle East, but the confluence of a number of developments today tempt one to take that risk. Let me first of all make my prediction, then explain why I see things as I do. Israel will have either negotiated peace with the Palestinians and her Arab neighbours within five years, or the State of Israel will not exist in 10 years as now constituted.

I believe as I do because four major factors now impact Israel's future in ways not anticipated a decade ago.

First, the Palestinian intifada has ended four decades of Palestinian submission to Israel's oppressive occupation, and in doing so the Palestinian nation has been discovered by everyone in the world except Israel's political right wing. Israel's superb ability in telling its story, aided by world sympathy over the European Jewish genocide, is now seen for the myth that it is. Either Israel joins the world in recognising Palestinian rights or loses the world's sympathy. Israel does not have much longer to make its decision.

Second, Israel's favourite Uncle Sam is running short of cash. As long as times were good and the United States had no shortage of ability to take care of itself, the unprecedented aid given to Israel was no problem. Israel's lobby in Washington could deliver Congress, and the administration usually had no good reason to resist. Today, with cutbacks coming in almost all areas of America's good life, things are different. It takes increasing courage to vote in Congress for cuts in domestic programmes and to continue (or increase) the \$3-\$4 billion

aid package to Israel. Bob Dole's break is only the beginning; AIPAC, Israel's lobby, is on the skids. In the final analysis it cannot deliver the vote if those running for re-election (or as candidates for the first time) choose to put the issue of AIPAC's supposed power on the table, as Dole and others are doing.

Third, Saddam Hussein of Iraq has created in the Middle East a "balance of terror." America's buildup of Israel's military power has made Israel a source of terror to her Arab neighbours. Sadly, Israel has not, to date, used that power to make peace. Her two invasions of Lebanon, many thrusts of reprisal into that poor country, the bombing of Iraq and Tunis — all these have created fears in the Arab World which Israel blindly refuses to understand. Now Hussein says that Iraq stands ready to respond to any such future attack by raising the ante (as Israel has done in the past by its use of bombers to retaliate for a few guerrillas crossing her border) by using "the poor man's nuclear bomb," chemical weapons, in retaliation.

Since Israel knows that Saddam Hussein is sufficiently malevolent to carry out his threat, one hopes that there will be sufficient leadership in Israel's government to keep its Masada complex in check. That, in turn, means that it will be difficult to try to rebuild world sympathy by risking some military experiment, as has been attempted in the past. In today's atmosphere of "resolution of conflicts" it would be foolhardy in any event; in view of Hussein's threat of retaliation it should be comparable to a threat against humanity in the Middle East.

Fourth, Israel's option for the status quo in internal politics is foreclosed, as is its option of occupying Palestinian land. The political stalemate that has created two governments of "national unity" has just about run its course. Something must give, and soon. During a recent visit to Israel I was told that, roughly speaking, 20 per cent of the Israeli people are prepared to exchange land for peace; 20 per cent are at (or close to) the point of risking civil war rather than give up the occupied territories; and 60 per cent are likely to go in any direction they may be led. Obviously they have not been getting leadership during the period of the so-called national unity governments. But those days will soon be over, and a change in the way Israel elects its leadership is bound to come.

If responsible leadership results from such an election, leadership which recognises that Israel now stands alone in the world but has a large security for itself and justice for the Palestinians, Israel could be at peace with its neighbours within five years. If, on the other hand, it responds to leadership which a Masada complex — which Shamir seems to exhibit — then Israel will either plunge into civil war or the Middle East into a genocide which will make Hitler's infamous European genocide pale by comparison.

It is a terrible moment when a nation positioned as Israel is, comes to a time when its option for the status quo is foreclosed by history — Israel and Palestine Political Report.

The writer, Paul Hopkins, is an international specialist on the Sudan and Middle East and formerly in charge of Mideast affairs for the Presbyterian Church, USA.

Saudi ties with China set stage for similar move with Moscow

By Rawhi Abaidoh
Reuter

NICOSIA — Saudi Arabia, a strictly Muslim kingdom which once reviled the communist world as atheistic, has established diplomatic relations with China — and the Soviet Union is expected to be next.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, announcing the move on Saturday night, called it "a significant step that would benefit the interests of our Arab and Muslim nation."

Diplomats say it is only a matter of time before the world's biggest oil exporter, previously with no ties to any communist state, moves to establish relations with the Soviet Union.

Relations Moscow, suspended for more than 50 years, began to thaw after the Kingdom mediated the Soviet troop withdrawal from Muslim Afghanistan in early 1989. Two senior Soviet officials have visited the Kingdom since then.

Taiwan, which says it is the legitimate government of China, formally suspended diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia but valuable economic links are likely to be preserved.

Diplomats believe the Saudi embassy in Taipei will be downgraded to the status of a trade mission. Taiwan's Foreign Minister Frederic Chien said on Saturday Taipei was prepared to negotiate its future relations with Riyadh but gave no details.

Chien attributed the move to China's "missile diplomacy" and aggressive diplomatic overtures towards the kingdom since 1988.

He said Beijing had sold about \$3.5 billion worth of missiles to Saudi Arabia after the United States Congress blocked major arms sale to the Kingdom. Beijing had also helped Riyadh launch satellites valued at about \$3.1 billion.

In 1988, China sold Saudi Arabia CSS-2 medium-range non-nuclear missiles that could hit targets in Israel and Iran.

The move, while predicted days in advance, is a diplomatic blow to Taiwan, now recog-

nised by only 27 states. Saudi Arabia was the last Arab country to retain diplomatic ties with it.

"Saudi Arabia recognises that the government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legitimate government that represents the entire Chinese people," said a joint statement from Prince Saud and visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

"This is a significant step for us because China enjoys a prominent international role... it will have a great impact," the Saudi minister said.

Diplomats said Saudi Arabia recognised China's political importance and saw it could play a useful role in supporting Arab causes. The breakthrough in the long-running talks to set up ties began on July 11, when the Saudi Ambassador to the United States Prince Bandar Bin Sultan visited Beijing.

Qian, who arrived in Saudi Arabia on Friday for the first visit by a Chinese minister, said the move would "serve the interests of peace, stability and development in the world."

"This important event in relations... will open broad horizons in the future," the official Saudi Press Agency quoted him as saying.

Beijing's relations with the West have been slowly improving following the breakdown caused by its bloody crackdown on the democracy movement last year.

Taiwan exports textiles, machinery, electronic appliances and car parts to Saudi Arabia and imports about 145,000 barrels a day of mainly crude oil.

Taiwan says its trade with Saudi Arabia dropped to \$855 million in the first six months of 1990 from \$977 million in the same period last year but is still worth far more than Beijing's commercial ties to the kingdom.

Saudi imports from China rose more than 70 per cent to \$167.5 million in the first half of this year. Exports fell 34.2 per cent to 21.1 million compared with the same period in 1989.

Kuwait defends itself

(Continued from page 1)

the issue.

"President Assad said there should be no escalation and (stressed) the necessity of solving Arab differences by talking," the Syrian News Agency SANA

quoted the president as telling envoy Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, Kuwait's minister of state for cabinet affairs.

SANA said Awadi delivered a message on the dispute to Assad from Kuwait's Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The Kuwaiti minister, who arrived from Jordan Sunday, was to leave for Lebanon later Monday to hand a similar message to President Elias Hrawi.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi has suspended his mediation in the Iraq-Kuwait crisis until he is assured of Iraq's cooperation, diplomatic sources reported Monday.

Klibi, after two days of talks with Kuwait's leadership, left Sunday for his headquarters in Tunis. He did not proceed to Iraq as had been anticipated.

The sources, who spoke to the AP on condition they not be named, said that he would head back from Tunis to Baghdad once he was assured of sufficient willingness for cooperation by Iraq.

Five North African states decided Monday to send an envoy to the Gulf to try to mediate in the dispute.

The final declaration of a two-day Maghreb summit expressed concern over the row.

Halhoul homes sealed

(Continued from page 1)

"The Israeli government speaks with two voices," Rubinstein said, noting that the first voice declares the government follows the Fourth Geneva Convention on the rights of civilians in occupied territories.

In its second voice, Rubinstein said, "the government doesn't agree to apply the convention concerning basic humanitarian issues, such as house demolitions and deportations."

During the 31-month Palestinian uprising, Israel has demolished 300 homes and sealed 162 in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to punish Palestinians.

Israel argues that houses are demolished or sealed only in severe cases and that this helps

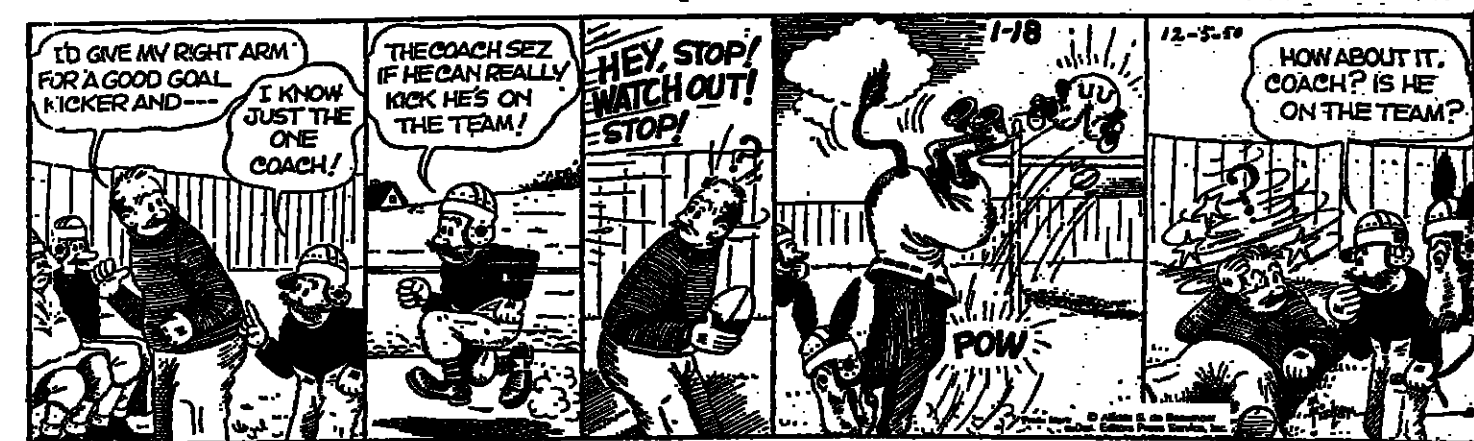
deter violence.

The Israeli occupation authorities expelled 60 Palestinians as uprising leaders. It argues that while mass expulsions are banned by the Geneva conventions, expulsions of a few individuals are permissible.

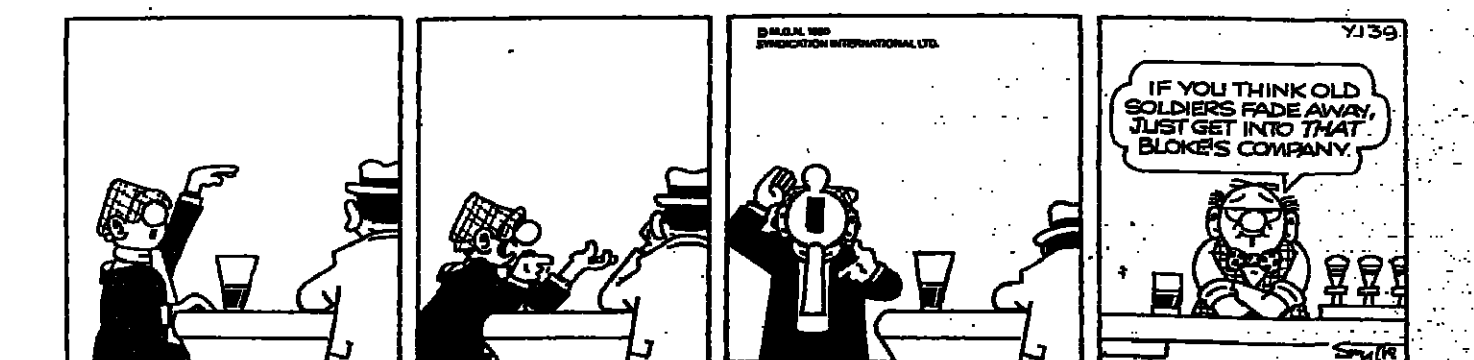
The Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits "individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations."

The United States and European Community (EC) nations have said repeatedly that Israel violates human rights by demolishing houses and expelling Palestinians. The EC considers Jewish settlements illegal, while the United States says they are obstacles to peace.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Hard times for communists means paying phone, electricity bills

By Andrew Katell
The Associated Press

TVER, USSR — Their policies are attacked from left and right. They are losing some of their cars and country homes. And now they have to start paying their own telephone and electricity bills.

For communists in this ancient Russian city, these are not the best of times. And they may be a sign of things to come for other areas.

Just ask Sergei Goryachev, the acting city party chief of Tver, a city 170 kilometres northwest of Moscow that was renamed last week from Kalinin. The 38-year-old son of a serviceman admits

that a vacation that gave him a nice tan also started him thinking about quitting.

"This troubled me especially during my vacation, when I had more time to think. And now every party worker is thinking. Of course there is worrying, serious worrying," Goryachev said in his office in Tver.

With Soviet Founder Vladimir Lenin staring from a portrait on a wall, Goryachev said his soul-searching brought him to a simple conclusion: "In this period, to leave would be pure betrayal."

Sparked by dissatisfaction with this month's 28th Communist Party Congress, dozens of party leaders have come to the opposite conclusion, including Maverick

Boris N. Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Republic. They have quit the party.

The party is under attack nationwide from the left for not giving up its exclusive cells in the KGB and army and police and not sharing its massive wealth — buildings and printing presses — with fledgling competitors. The right is angry that the party is loosening its grip on Eastern European allies and is borrowing from capitalism in its economic reforms.

It is not known how many communists nationwide have turned in their cards to the 19 million-member party since the congress stood firm against these demands.

But in the Tver region, 3,000 of the 150,000 Communist Party members have left the party in the first half of this year.

Goryachev predicts more will quit because of unhappiness with what he calls inconceivable decisions of the congress. The mood already is showing in his meetings with workers.

"They are cold in the very beginning when you walk in. But then, people see that you are the same as they, have the same problems and that the problems concern me," he said.

Many complaints, he said, are about privileges accorded party officials. Goryachev and other officials say many summer cottages, cars and medical facilities

reserved for the elite have been turned over to the government.

The older generation of party officials, even more accustomed to the good life, faces similar complaints.

"To hear out criticism is not a pleasant task," said Alexander Ilyenkov, Tver's 53-year-old regional party chief.

Ilyenkov, who talks quickly in a deep baritone and smokes a hard-to-find brand of cigarettes, says he answers frankly. "Many of the misfortunes today were generated by me and I take the responsibility," he tells the public.

The party is taking responsibility in other ways, as well. In Tver and several other regions, it is

ending its free ride.

The party committee in this city on the Volga River has decided to start paying for telephones, electricity and television air time.

The phone and electricity bills of party offices at factories have traditionally been paid by the host organisations, which are run by the government, Goryachev said. But to head off claims by prospective competing parties, such bills will now be paid out of the party budget, he said.

That is not as radical a step as some activists demand. They want the party to give up its privileged access to factory workers by moving out of its factory offices.

The reforms also stop short of another demand of radicals: That the party denationalise its property and share it with other parties.

In Tver, the party is giving some of its buildings to the local city council. Its four city committees are being consolidated into one, half of its 112 staff employees are to be laid off.

Tver Mayor Sergei Kisilev says he's adopting the spirit of the times, in which the party has given up its constitutionally guaranteed monopoly of power.

Although no opposition parties have officially registered in Tver, Kisilev says that if they do he will "guarantee everyone equal conditions."

The government, he says, will

no longer pay for the party's use of the local TV station or non-party newspapers and will send a bill to the party for meetings in theatres and other public buildings.

Goryachev says Tver's police chief has stopped calling him to report regularly on crimes in the city. Party departments that supervised the KGB and other organs in the city are being abolished, he says.

Ilyenkov believes the reforms will enable the party to win back the people's hearts. But he says the process won't be easy because the congress was not like a tailor's shop which you "come out of in a renewed suit, discarding the old one."

Petra Bank scandal

(Continued from page 1)

"Techniques" — to what end?

Chalabi is credited by many for bringing in advanced computerised banking operations, including electronic teller machines, into the country, but some experts argue that computers had actually helped the tycoon to enjoy instant control of every aspect of the bank's operations and accounts from his central console.

A banker described a team of Indian computer experts brought in by Chalabi in 1983 as "some of the best computer brains." The banker believes it is "doubtful" that the team, drawn into Petra Bank from some of the leading Indian banking institutions, actually knew anything about the monetary implications of the figures they were working with.

Members of the team left the Kingdom around the time the authorities took over the affairs of the bank.

Another banker cited as an example what he described as "overnight alterations" in the books of the bank from the central computer console system to which, it is believed, only Chalabi had access. "In some cases, some branch managers were shocked to find that their 'bad debts' had grown by over a couple of million dinars overnight," he said. "Of course, there is very little they could do about it since the entire accounting and balancing system was centralised."

"Speculation encouraged"

According to Dr. Waked, investigations have revealed that Chalabi, whose whereabouts are presumed to range from Lebanon and Syria, through London and Geneva to Hong Kong and Thailand, had also "encouraged Jordanians and Jordanian institutions to speculate in foreign markets through institutions controlled by him." Jordanians are banned by law from speculating in foreign markets.

If that was not enough, said Dr. Waked, "many of our people and institutions were also encouraged by Chalabi to speculate in the commodity market," where the risks are much higher. Financing for these deals was channelled through institutions such as the Geneva-based Sococoff and the Beirut and Geneva branches of Middle East Banking Company (Mebo) and the London-based Societe Commerciale et Financiere (SCF), according to Dr. Waked. Sococoff and Mebo, both under liquidation, were controlled by Chalabi, an Iraqi who is believed to have been the banker of the Shi'ite Amal militia in Lebanon. He is married to the daughter of Lebanese defence minister Adel Obeidat.

"Clear" against Petra, which was ordered liquidated by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) earlier this week, from Sococoff and Mebo as well as SCF and the Sudanese National Bank are unlikely to be settled in the liquidation process, bankers said, noting that accounts of these institutions were not transferred to the Housing Bank prior to liquidation, under another ESC decision issued last week.

These and other external claims against Petra Bank are in the region of \$116 million, according to a source familiar with the auditors' report. No split-up figure was immediately available, but it appears to be a foregone conclusion that the CBI, which has guaranteed the deposits of Jordanians and Jordanian residents, will not entertain such claims, particularly that some of them are in fact from Chalabi-owned institutions.

Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh has said that Petra Bank had been systematically funneling money out of Jordan through Mebo and Sococoff. At one point late last year, he revealed that at least \$68 million transferred outside Jordan by Petra Bank was unaccounted for, including \$8 million personally appropriated by Chalabi. "It is only an indication of the magnitude of the affair," he had said.

The personal property of Chalabi, mainly a villa and vehicles, has been placed under Petra Bank sequestration after the fugitive banker failed to settle a recorded loan of about JD 1.8 million which was due last year. The bank was run by an interim management committee from Aug. 2, 1989 — when the institution was taken over — to July 21, 1990 — the date the liquidation process was formally launched. The CBI, which was named the liquidator with sweeping powers, has appointed a five-member panel to supervise the liquidation process. The bank has also named three advisers to the panel.

"Over 100 cases expected"

Dr. Waked said investigations

were almost complete and that he expected over 100 cases to be filed by the martial law authorities. "I cannot provide any specific number of cases or date since it is up to the martial law court to decide," he said.

Charges in the case are believed to include violations of CBI regulations, speculation over the Jordanian dinar, which partially contributed to the currency's dramatic drop in exchange value, and embezzlement and outright fraud.

Dr. Waked declined to reveal any details of any of the cases or people involved. He would only say that Chalabi himself and some members of Petra Bank staff were certain to face prosecution. "Anywhere between 50 and 100 people could be booked," he said. "Again, it is for the martial law court to decide."

On several occasions, persons linked to Petra Bank had been detained and released, some of them on bail and others unconditionally, after questioning by the authorities, but none of them is believed to be in custody at present.

Businessmen, including company owners and moneychangers, bank employees, real estate agents, officials and "people from all walks of life" were called-in by the investigating committee to give testimonies. While some of them were believed to have been Chalabi's "proxies" others were owners or employees of industrial units, supermarkets, computer firms and other commercial enterprises.

Scores of people holding official positions, high and low, were customers of the bank, and more often than not, had been enjoying easy overdraft and loan facilities, said a source familiar with the final report of the auditors. "In many cases, such facilities were granted with no proper collateral or guarantee," said the source who added that most of the holders of such accounts had repaid their debts since the take-over of the bank.

In some cases, collaterals were found to be worth less than 40 per cent of the actual loans granted on them, according to an official source. "The case of a small piece of land in an Amman suburb worth JD 30,000 mortgaged against a loan of JD 80,000 was not uncommon," said the source. "The consideration here, obviously, was the person who actually owned the land and took the loan rather than the value of the property."

CBI Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi said in a television interview last week that over 80 per cent of Petra Bank's woes were the result of Chalabi's actions. He said some of the management members as well as bank officials could also be held responsible for some aspects of the case.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran, announcing at the House of Parliament Saturday that inquiries into the Petra Bank scandal had been completed and martial law authorities were almost ready to file formal cases, also emphasised the gravity of the problem and the complications involved in sorting out the affair.

Departing from a prepared text of his speech at Saturday's session, he said, "I have at least 60 files related to Petra Bank," and gestured: "Each file is at least 60 centimetres thick."

Badran cited the case as one of the reasons that is delaying the fulfilment of the government's pledge to abolish martial law totally. He said as soon as the cases were finished, martial law would be declared nullified.

According to Dr. Waked, the investigators have uncovered scores of cases where Chalabi used other people as a front to conduct his dubious banking activities.

"In many cases, people appeared to have simply trusted the man, and left everything to him without the slightest suspicion."

"The authorities should have taken action against Petra Bank, at least eight years back," according to Dr. Waked. "The losses could have been brought down to a minimum."

According to sources, the deficit in Petra Bank accounts is estimated by the auditors between JD 252 million and JD 255 million, and the Central Bank has said it pumped in more than JD 200 million into Petra Bank after it was taken over.

"Better late than never," Waked said adding that the liquidation order was inevitable. "As a member of the investigating committee, as a director of a Jordanian bank and above all as a Jordanian, I believe liquidation was the only way out for Petra Bank," he said.

As a banker summed it up, the Petra Bank cases, as and when they are presented for trial, are expected to at least partly answer the most-asked question in town: "All Baba has fled, but what about the 40 thieves?"

King meets Mubarak and Aziz

(Continued from page 1)

the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which also came under the Iraqi accusations. "They are the ones who are threatening us," Aziz said. "We do not threaten anyone."

Egypt has reportedly proposed a four-point solution to Aziz.

According to a report from Cairo distributed by the official Kuwait News Agency, the points are:

— Excluding threat of military action by any party against the other;

— An Egyptian shuttle for rapprochement of views between the two countries, with help from other Arab countries welcomed;

— A reconciliation meeting at foreign ministers level, possibly in Cairo, with the participation of a "limited number of Arab countries who have political weight";

— The ending of all media campaigns against each other.

In Amman, a Jordanian official who declined to be named said of the King's trip, "Jordan has excellent relations with Gulf states and all Arab countries and His Majesty will try to solve all problems in the best manner."

Restrictions

(Continued from page 1)

there were "children, elderly and sick people."

But he said the backlog eased after a United Nations border trustee committee had "settled the problem" and informed Jordan that the occupation authorities will allow the previous quota of 22,050 people to cross weekly between May 15 and Sept. 1.

Attar said the U.N. committee did not give any explanations for the Israel's restrictions.

Jordan complained last week that Israel had only allowed in 12,900 Palestinians between July 11-18.

During the May-September period traffic is swollen by Palestinians returning home for summer visits from jobs abroad.

Doctors warn — don't make Espresso

By Lee Siegel
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Add two new dangers to life in America's trendy lane: Espresso maker's wrist and choking from eating ever-so-slightly done California cuisine while wearing a dental retainer.

Cases of the two new perils of modern living were reported in letters published in the June issue of the Western Journal of Medicine.

In one case, Berkeley Physician Dennis Shusterman said that during a visit to a restaurant, he noticed an elastic bandage around the owner's right wrist.

The restaurateur told the doctor he had suffered increasing wrist pain for two months.

"The pain was exacerbated each time he inserted spigots containing fresh coffee grounds into an Espresso machine with a rotating motion of the handle — a manoeuvre that he repeated 80 to 100 times a day," Shusterman wrote.

The doctor performed tests and determined the restaurant owner suffered De Quervain's Tenosynovitis, an inflammation of the sheath surrounding a tendon in the wrist. The condition previously was seen in assembly line workers and in women who spend a lot of time wringing wet clothes, Shusterman said.

"While the prevalence of this disorder among Espresso makers is unknown, the recent surge in popularity of Espresso drinking may place additional persons at risk," he wrote.

The second hazard involved choking "associated with two re-

latively recent trends: adult orthodontics and California cuisine," said a letter by Drs. Albert W. Wu and Haya R. Rubin of the medical school at the University of California at San Francisco.

The patient was a 31-year-old woman who had worn braces for an improper bite, had the bands removed, and then was fitted with a retainer, which she was told to wear even during meals.

"At a lunch meeting, while discussing the benefits of a low-fat diet over a platter of a dentate vegetables, she suddenly stood and raised both hands to her neck in the international sign of choking," Wu and Rubin wrote.

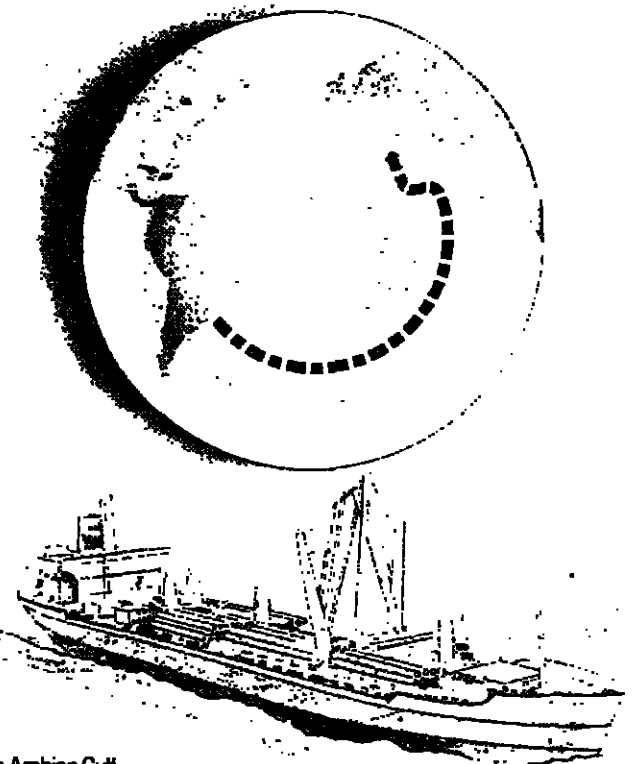
"Her companion did a prompt Heimlich manoeuvre, ejecting an intact, nearly 2-inch-long piece of broccoli," they said.

The doctors said that to their knowledge, "this is the first report of choking associated with an orthodontic appliance. Patients should consider removing their retainers before eating."

As for the case of Espresso maker's wrist, the restaurateur owner recovered almost completely after spending three weeks letting his right wrist rest and taking nonprescription anti-inflammatory medicine, Shusterman said.

"He adapted to this occupational disability by using his opposite hand to insert spigots into the Espresso machine, taking care to avoid any abrupt or strenuous manoeuvres in the process," the doctor said.

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Jordan Times

Soviet gymnasts score top marks at Goodwill Games

SEATTLE, Washington (R) — Nervous Nesty and the cool competitors of the Soviet gymnastic team shared star billing as the Goodwill Games got into full swing.

Anthony Nesty overcame the jitters to once again beat swim star Matt Biondi, while the men's gymnastic team of the Soviet Union were simply perfect, particularly young Vitali Scherbo.

The 17-day games moved into high gear as athletics competition opened at massive Husky Stadium and Soviet pole vaulter Rodion Gataulin treated the crowd to the best vault of the year outdoors — 5.92 metres — to win the gold.

But Jackie Joyner-Kersey, who set a heptathlon world record in the inaugural Goodwill Games, got off to a disappointing start in this year's event after a poor shot put and a slow 200 metres time.

Nesty punctured Matt Biondi's aura of invincibility at Seoul when he touched home a mere one-hundredth of a second ahead in the 200-metre butterfly to deprive the American of a sixth gold medal in the 1988 Olympics.

The prospect of a re-match, however, left Nesty nervous. "I came into this race more nervous than I've ever been. Waiting to swim, I could not stand it anymore. I was about to pee in my pants," said Nesty, who managed to contain himself and transform his nervous energy into the speed needed to claim the gold.

Scherbo led the Soviet gymnasts to an awesome sweep as he and his teammates collected gold in every event of the three-day meeting.

Scherbo, 18, was best of all. He won three individual golds, including the all-around title, and produced the only perfect 10 score of the meeting with a thrilling vault.

But he said he plans to ride in the remaining World Cup races until the end of the season and defend his world title in Japan at the beginning of September.

If he won in Japan, he would be first rider ever to complete a Tour de France-World Championship double in successive years.

Ironically, Lemond has not crossed a finishing line in first place since his world title triumph in Chambéry, France last year. Though he rode a brilliant tactical race, he failed to land a single stage win in the Tour and his early season was marred by a mystery virus which upset his preparations.

He placed only 105th in the Tour of Italy and dropped to 18th in the world rankings. But few would contest his claim to be the world's greatest rider even if a new generation is emerging which could threaten his dominance in the great three-week race around France.

The likes of Spaniard Miguel Indurain, Dutchman Eric Breukink and Gianni Bugno of Italy, all top 10 finishers, did enough to suggest each could start next year with serious aspirations of wresting Lemond's crown.

Though 1988 Tour winner Pedro Delgado disappointed, finishing outside the top three for the first time in four years, Lemond still sees the Spaniard as

All did not go smoothly on the first day of athletics. Heptathlete Liliana Nastase of Romania was hit on the side of the face and neck by a competitor's shot put during warm-ups and she left the field before continuing.

Things went better on the track for Paul Williams, who won the 5,000 metres. But his moment of glory looked in jeopardy when the sound system conked out and would not play the Canadian national anthem.

At first the crowd booed, but the jeers turned to loud and long cheers for Williams, who raised his victory bouquet in appreciation.

Rowing completed a hectic two days of competition which were full of action on and off the water.

West Germany won the featured men's eight over the U.S. rowers by three seats, while Britain straggled home last in the men's four after replacing rower Timothy Foster in the lineup.

Foster had been in hospital for heat exhaustion and dehydration after winning a bronze in the men's four without Coxswain.

A 25-year-old Seattle man had also caused a stir at Mount Baker Rowing Centre when he proclaimed that his camera bag was filled with dynamite, placed it on the ground and stepped back.

Special police bomb squads were summoned to inspect the bag. Inside was only a video camera, but police pressed charges against the practical joker anyway.

Volleyball competition at Gonzaga University in Spokane has provided local police with a different

sort of diversion. Police, who supervise security there, are angling for the popular afternoon shift, when members of the Brazilian women's team can be seen sunbathing Brazilian style — topless.

Soviet wins marathon

Meanwhile Zoya Ivanova, a seasoned campaigner, led a Soviet sweep of the medals in the women's marathon at the Goodwill Games Sunday, winning in 2 hours, 34 minutes, 37 seconds.

Ivanova, 38, and countrywoman Irina Bogacheva ran side-by-side for virtually all of the first 17 miles of the 28-mile, 385-yard (42-kilometre) race. Ivanova, winner of 10 of 23 marathons, then charged in front as her teammate began to wilt under the hot, humid conditions.

"They only started running marathons in the Soviet Union 10 years ago, so this is a 10-year jubilation," Ivanova said through an interpreter.

Ivanova, a teacher and a mother, went in as the favourite, having been the only runner in the elite nine-woman field with a time under 2:30.

Ivanova's best career time was 2:27:57 in finishing second in the 1987 World Championships. She also was second in the 1985 World Cup, while her victories included the 1981 European Cup, the 1982 Tokyo Marathon, the 1984 Friendship Games, the 1987 World Cup and the 1989 Los Angeles Marathon.

Bogacheva, runnerup in the first Goodwill Games in 1986, again finished second in 2:36:24, and Ravilya Barangulova was third in 2:57:40.

"I like to run in the U.S., because the American fans welcome me, are very friendly, and they help me a lot," Ivanova said.

Ivanova said her only disappointment was that "the leading runners in the world were not

Medal table				
	G	S	B	Tot
United States	17	28	11	48
Soviet Union	16	16	14	46
East Germany	8	4	11	23
West Germany	3	2	3	8
Netherlands	1	1	4	6
China	1	2	2	5
Italy	1	2	1	4
Spain	1	3	0	3
Hungary	1	1	1	3
Canada	1	0	1	2
Australia	0	1	1	2
Romania	0	1	1	2
Cuba	1	0	0	1
Czechoslovakia	1	0	0	1
Denmark	1	0	0	1
Poland	1	0	0	1
Mexico	1	0	0	1
Japan	1	0	0	1
South Korea	1	0	0	1
Ethiopia	0	1	0	1
Britain	0	0	1	1
Brazil	0	0	1	1

here. ... these were the second-class runners.

"I trained long hours, and I treated the race with the utmost seriousness," she said.

Among those missing were Joan Benoit Samuelson of the United States, Norwegians Greta Waitz and Ingrid Kristiansen, and Rosa Mota of Portugal.

Lisa Kindelan, a last-minute replacement, was the first for the United States, placing fourth in 2:42:05.

At the 1986 Goodwill Games, the Soviets swept the first five places, with the first U.S. runner sixth.

East German wins women's discus

The political upheaval that brought down the Berlin Wall has not affected the athletic proficiency of East German discus thrower Ute Wassermann.

Wassermann, unbeaten in two years and ranked no. 1 in the world in her specialty, endured a 19-hour, twice-delayed flight from London but captured the women's discus Sunday at the Goodwill Games with a throw of 223 feet, 4 inches.



Greg Lemond (left) rides hand in hand with Soviet Union's Dimitri Konishev during the last stage of Tour de France.

the biggest threat.

"It doesn't matter what the others did this year, it's what you do next year which counts. Delgado will still be the most dangerous. Everyone starts from zero in January. Breukink and Indurain may be a threat but let's see what they do then."

Indurain placed only 10th, six places lower than his team leader Delgado, but his superb riding in the mountains and time trials impressed everybody and some observers felt he could have won the race if he had not spent so much of his energy serving his leader rather than himself.

Breukink finished third, winning two time trials by a large margin and confirming his promise as the best of the rising Dutch generation.

Bugno, Tour of Italy winner, said he had come to France just to learn. He won the classic mountain stage of l'Alpe d'Huez, the classic sprint stage in Bordeaux and placed seventh overall. Not bad for a learner.

But, Lemond apart, the rider who may best be remembered from the 1990 Tour is Claudio Chiappucci, the modest Italian who wore the yellow jersey for nine days until the American seized it in the penultimate stage.

Chiappucci may have been lucky to benefit from a 10-minute advantage after a surprise first stage breakaway but, growing in stature with the yellow jersey on his back, he defended his lead with tremendous pluck until he could resist no more.

Of such heroes is Tour de France history made.

Agassi cruises to Washington classic

WASHINGTON (R) — Top-seeded Andre Agassi crushed any hopes sixth-seed Jim Grabb had of capturing his second career singles title with a 6-1, 6-4 victory Sunday in the \$550,000 Washington Tennis Classic.

The last time the two met in a final at Seoul in 1987, Grabb walked away with the winner's trophy. Since then the two had met twice, Agassi winning both, and he gave a repeat performance Sunday.

Agassi, ranked fourth in the world, needed only 62 minutes to dispose of Grabb and win the \$70,000 first prize in his first tournament since losing the French Open final.

"I came here and every match it seemed like I rose to the occasion," said Agassi, who had not hit a tennis ball for a month until four days before coming to Washington.

"I could've done better if I was pushed harder. I feel great about my performance."

Agassi totally dominated the 38th-ranked Grabb, whose serve-and-volley game deserted him.

Andre Agassi

For much of the match Agassi kept Grabb pinned to the baseline, forcing him to chase after balls — something Grabb is not comfortable doing.

In the 20-minute first set, Grabb only held his serve once, in the fourth game, while managing a total of only three points off Agassi's serve.

Grabb improved in the second set, but only enough to lose it respectfully. Agassi made in the decisive break in the third game with a backhand pass.

"I thought Andre played great," said Grabb, who won \$36,880. "He's hitting the ball with such pace you have to see the ball quickly. I'd have to sustain a high level of play for too long."

Sanchez survives duel to win Newport title

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (R) — Top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain rallied to a 7-6, (7-2), 4-6, 7-5 victory over unseeded Jo Durie of Britain Sunday to win the singles title at the Virginia Slims of Newport Tennis Tournament.

Sanchez trailed 2-5 in the third set of a thrilling final but struck back to break Durie's serve three consecutive times to earn her second singles title of the season.

"I played the important points very well," Sanchez said. "When I was down 2-5, I just tried to play from point to point and concentrate very hard."

The 18-year-old Sanchez, ranked seventh in the world, earned \$45,000 and passed the million-dollar mark for her career. Durie, 29, playing in her first singles final in seven years, earned \$20,200.

"When it came to the crunch I got a little bit nervous," Durie admitted. "Maybe I didn't really believe in myself at the end."

Durie, ranked as high as fifth in 1983, has been plagued by injuries and indifferent results for the past seven years.

"Although I'm disappointed

about losing from a 5-2 lead, I can at least look at something positive about my tennis," said Durie, whose WTA computer ranking improved 67 spots to 54th.

"I felt I played better than when I was ranked fifth in the world. That is something to give me confidence and build upon."

The start of the grass court final was delayed nearly an hour by rain, and then the players had to contend with a thick fog that rolled in off the Atlantic Ocean.

Sanchez took the first set of the top-quality, closely-fought contest in a tie-breaker, 7-2.

The second set was also tight, with Durie leveling the match by breaking serve in the seventh game.

Durie twice served for the championship in the third set but just could not pull it out.

"This was a very important tournament to win for me, being my first on grass. It tells everyone that I can play on this surface," said Sanchez, who lost in the first round at Wimbledon.

Durie also read a positive message in the result. "I'm just happy to be back playing good tennis again," she said.

Vogler dies in crash on small Indiana race track

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Rich Vogler's life ended the same way his father's did: in a crash on a small Indiana race track.

Vogler, who would have been 40 Thursday, died of head injuries Saturday night after crashing at the Salem Speedway

in southern Indiana.

His father Don died in 1981 during practice for a U.S. Auto Club (USAC) midget race at the Indianapolis Speedrome.

He was the first of two race car drivers to die in less than 12 hours.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YANNAH HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 5 ♠ 963 ♠ AK9852 ♠ KJ6

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with a weak two-bid. What action do you take?
A.—Treat an opening weak two-bid much as if opener had bid one of the suit. You would have overcalled one heart with two diamonds, so bid three diamonds over two hearts.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AK63 ♠ 87 ♠ 1043 ♠ A984

The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ?

—Weak
What do you bid now?
A.—You want to tell partner you have game aspirations but you don't want to bypass three no trump, which might be your only makeable game should partner have a heart stopper. The way to convey that information is to cue-bid three hearts, which indicates a strong hand, but says nothing about control of the suit itself.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 5 ♠ 963 ♠ AK9852 ♠ KJ6

The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ?

—Weak
What do you bid now?
A.—You have a dead minimum for an overall at the three-level. As is usual in situations where you have already bid your values, sign off in the cheapest strain available. Bid four diamonds.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ AK63 ♠ 87 ♠ 1043 ♠ A984

The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ?

—Weak
What action do you take?
A.—Don't bid the same values twice! Your three-heart cue-bid already showed game-interest and you could hardly have less for that action than what you hold. Pass; if partner couldn't bid game it's unlikely you can score 11 tricks.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AQ4 ♠ Q5 ♠ 832 ♠ 105432

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—Fire on you if you thought we were setting a trap. This is simply a matter of whether you rate your hand worth another bid. Since the queen of hearts should be upgraded and your fifth club is a great card, three clubs gets our nod.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A983 ♠ J4 ♠ A93 ♠ K965

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Another question of valuation. Point counters will tell you that you should raise to two no trump with 12 points. However, we feel your jack in partner's suit should be upgraded and your intermediates are good, so we would opt for three no trump.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JULY 24, 1990

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Excellent opportunities today require precise action on your part to bring about a more harmonious colour to your well-being. New friendships come easily and work to your advantage.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Put yourself on notice early that you are going to use every idea that comes into your mind to utilize the potentials in them to advance your prosperity.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You have many inspired thoughts about what you can quietly do to make your dreams come true and should act on them in private right away.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You now have a chance to make some interesting new acquaintances who can open doors for you by which you can gain personal goals you desire.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Although home and family are vital to your happiness, you have a strong desire for a greater part in the scheme of patriotic interest you like.

LEOS (July 22 to August 21) You like to make constructive changes and this is a particularly opportune day to do so and your success can soar by more idealistic projects.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) You like to have everything

correct and in order and this is a fine day to organize your activities so they are more operative for you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You like to analyze and balance whatever you come in contact with but today you can meet those who are endowed with positive action that you need.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You awaken with an enthusiasm urge to get far more done than in usually possible during a day of work and you can do this so don't put off.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A day when you want to have a good time in ways you have not enjoyed or experienced are this and it is just the right time to branch out in activities.

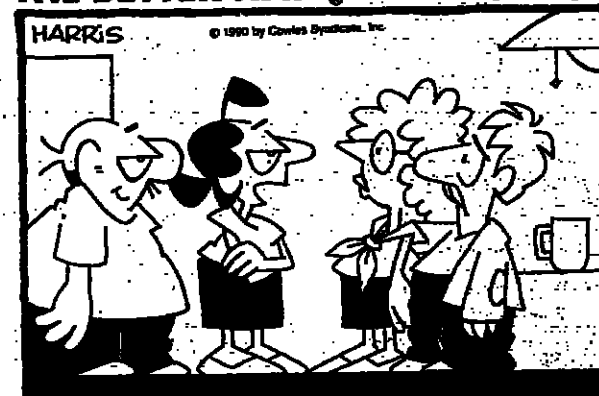
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) A whole new set of conditions could be just what is needed in order to add to the harmony of your dwelling so put in motion today.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) Consider well what you can do to increase whatever productive activity is your main interest and you can achieve far more than you had thought possible.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) You have some excellent ideas of a practical nature by which your income can be increased and even more property become a part of your assets.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Marriage is a give-and-take thing. I give him headaches and he takes me for granted."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SNUKK

JYTET

BUESAD

GRAHNB



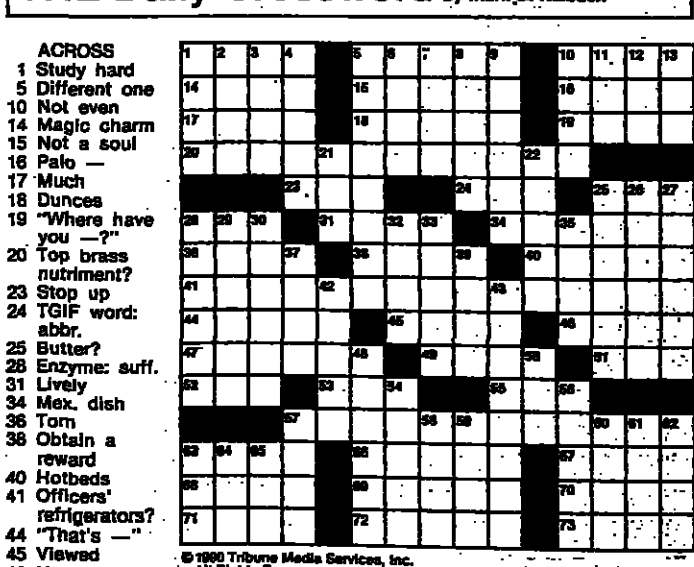
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ○○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: SMOKY PARTY HAIRDO LIQUOR
Answer: What he did when the doctor suggested he try some weight lifting—STOOD UP

THE Daily Crossword by Mark S. Kalbach



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Yesterday's Puzzle Answer:

1 Study hard
2 Different one
3 Not even
4 Magic charm
5 Not a soul
6 Fat
7 Much
8 Dances
9 "Where have you—?"
10 Top brass
11 Nutrition?
12 Stop up
13 TGIF word
14 abhor
15 Butter?
16 Enzyme: suff.
17 Lively
18 Mcc. dish
19 Tom
20 Obtain a reward
21 Heeds
22 Officers' refrigerators?
23 "The —"
24 Viewed
25 Have the nerve
26 Shortest vacation?
27 Pro
28 Halitosis
29 Response: abbt.
30 Previous to
31 "To each — own"
32 Thither
33 quarters?
34 Song
35 Stock phrase
36 Large auto
37 In a boat
38 Dirt
39 Margarine
40 Laughingstock
41 Slackened
42 Method: abor.
43 Put in shape
44 Barcelona bull
45 Request
46 Pertain
47 Losing money
48 Edge
49 Dotted
50 Cathedral city
51 Stick in Port.
52 Atlas
53 Fuel type
54 Egypt, sacred bull
55 Make tractable
56 Carbon form
57 Account
58 As a rule
59 Catch

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STANDINGS

American League					National League				
East Division					East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB					
Toronto	51	44	.537	—	Pittsburgh	55	36	.604	—
Boston	50	44	.532	½	New York	53	37	.589	1½
Baltimore	46	48	.489	4½	Montreal	51	44	.537	6
Cleveland	45	48	.484	5	Philadelphia	45	46	.495	10
Detroit	45	51	.469	6½	Chicago	43	52	.453	14
Milwaukee	42	50	.457	7½	St. Louis	41	53	.436	15½
New York	34	57	.374	15					
West Division					West Division				
Oakland	59	35	.628	—	Cincinnati	58	33	.637	—
Chicago	54	36	.600	3	San Francisco	49	44	.527	10
Seattle	49	47	.510	11	Los Angeles	45	47	.489	13½
California	47	48	.495	12½	Houston	40	54	.426	19½
Texas	46	48	.489	13	San Diego	38	53	.418	20
Minnesota	45	50	.474	14½	Atlanta	36	55	.396	22
Kansas City	43	50	.462	15½					
Sunday's Games					Sunday's Games				
Baltimore 9, Chicago 3					Atlanta 3, New York 2, 10 innings				
New York 10, Minnesota 6					Pittsburgh 11, Los Angeles 6				
Seattle 4, Milwaukee 3					Philadelphia 6, Cincinnati 2				
Cleveland 8, California 1					St. Louis 6, San Diego 4				
Oakland 3, Toronto 0					Chicago 4, San Francisco 2				
Kansas City 2, Boston 1					Houston 3, Montreal 2				
Texas 5, Detroit 3									

Portugal protects key industries

LISBON (R) — Portugal may let foreigners have a bigger stake in its industrial privatisation programme, but it is determined to keep "strategic" companies in Portuguese hands, a senior finance ministry official says.

Elias da Costa, secretary of state for finance, told Reuters in an interview that Portugal's privatisation policy has already been able to compete unprotected with investors from abroad.

The centre-right government has sold off a brewer, a newspaper and 49 per cent each of a major bank and two insurance companies since April 1989, netting a total of 70 billion escudos (\$485 million at the current exchange rate). Limits of 10 to 20 per cent of total equity were set for non-residents in each case.

Da Costa said the government would continue to set such limits on a case-by-case basis.

"These limits will be in inverse proportion to the importance of the companies to be privatised. The foreigners will be able to have 20 per cent, 10 per cent, 30 per cent, 40 per cent," he said.

"We are more concerned about those companies which have not only a strategic importance, but also a strategic image," he added. He cited Banco Portugueso do

Atlantico E.P. (BPA) and Cimentos de Portugal E.P. (Cimpor) as examples.

"These are companies which are 'bred in the bones' and whose control it is politically important to have secured by Portuguese," he said.

Despite the restrictions on foreigners, the government's privatisation policy has already come under fire from Pedro Ferraz da Costa, who heads Portugal's club of industrialists, the Confederaçao da Industria Portuguesa.

Da Costa said in a speech last month that Portuguese were being outbid by better-placed foreigners, who were taking over important chunks of industry. Portuguese were losing control of their own destiny, he said.

He said foreign investment in the programme was essential, healthy and fundamental for the development of Portugal, which has recently pulled itself ahead of Greece, which now holds the title of the European Community's poorest member.

But he added: "If foreign investment comes to Portugal with a view of dominating the public companies to be privatised, they will not be much welcomed by the

government. If they come in partnership with Portuguese companies, they will be welcomed."

The programme continues with a further 31 per cent stake in Banco Totta e Acores S.A., to be completed by July 31, with foreigners restricted to 10 per cent of total capital.

Fifty-one per cent of the small shipping firm Transportes Maritimos Insulares Companhia de Seguros S.A. Tranquilidade and brewers Central de Cervejas E.P. (Centralcer).

One-third of BPA, Portugal's biggest bank, will go on sale later this year. Privatisation of cement maker Cimpor is also due to begin this year, in principle, Da Costa said. Beyond that, the timetable is still undecided.

Da Costa said the foreigners' limit for Centralcer would definitely be "a good deal" higher than 20 per cent.

This was the level set for Portugal's biggest brewer, Uniao Cervejeira S.A. (Unicer), which last month produced the first hiccup in the programme. While the foreigners' 20 per cent was massively oversubscribed, Portuguese offers fell 311,000 shares short and the organising bank syndicate was forced to step in.

Huge deficits to keep Greek interest rates high

ATHENS (R) — Greece's huge state deficits will not be cut this year, keeping interest rates high and thwarting efforts to modernise the battered economy, central bank governor Dimitris Halikias said in an interview Sunday.

"The biggest obstacle to modernisation is the huge public sector deficits," he told the independent Sunday newspaper Vima.

"As long as the deficits remain at their present levels, and unfortunately they won't be reduced in 1990, interest rates will remain high for companies," he said.

The Bank of Greece has raised interest rates twice this year to curb the credit expansion fuelling inflation of more than 21 per cent annually and a big balance of payments deficit.

Minimum annual rates in July rose two per cent each for savings accounts (to 18 per cent), operating capital (to 20 per cent) and medium-to-long term loans (to 19 per cent).

Halikias said the budget deficit, estimated at \$12.9 billion for 1990 or more than 18 per cent of Greece's annual gross domestic product, was the fundamental economic problem.

"We must be bolder. We must cut expenditures drastically and press ahead with harsh measures where necessary," he said, suggesting real reductions in farm subsidies, cutting state employees and combating tax evasion.

Prime Minister Constantine

Mitsotakis formed the first conservative government since 1981 after his New Democracy Party won national elections in April.

He imposed economic austerity measures, including higher taxes on public services such as telephones, electricity and transportation, as well as cigarettes, alcohol, and petrol.

But when he unveiled his 1990 budget in May — six months late due to a year-long political crisis — state spending rose by 30 per cent, largely due to interest payments on outstanding loans.

In presenting the budget Mitsotakis said his hands were tied by commitments made under the Socialists, who were voted out of office in June 1989 after eight years in power. Plans to cut spending would be reflected in the 1991 budget in November.

In recent weeks, Halikias, a Socialist appointee, has sounded almost optimistic about the government's efforts to bring the economy under control.

If the government sticks to its declared economic plan over the next two or 2½ years, conditions could be met for the drachma's entry into the European Monetary System (EMS), he said.

"It is possible that in 1993 the conditions will have been created for our participation in the EMS." That means cutting inflation to 10 per cent a year and the budget deficit to 10 per cent of gross domestic product.

Baghdad said seeking \$25 oil price before raising OPEC output

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq wants no further rises in OPEC oil output or any increases in members' production quotas until prices surge to \$25 per barrel, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday.

The authoritative newsletter said the idea was likely to meet considerable resistance among some key producers when they meet in Geneva Thursday.

But it said there was a strong consensus within OPEC to restore oil prices to over \$18 per barrel. World prices are now just below OPEC's \$18 benchmark.

An Iranian plan to raise the minimum price to \$20 per barrel and then to cut OPEC's output ceiling and quotas if this was not reached by October stood a good chance of being accepted, it added.

The Geneva talks will probably maintain existing quotas for 12 of its 13 members, while allocating a formal quota of 1.5 million barrels per day (b/d) for the United Arab Emirates (UAE), making a total ceiling of 22.491 million b/d, MEES said.

This is the formula agreed by five Gulf Arab producers, includ-

ing Iraq, in Jeddah two weeks ago.

The quotas would be maintained until prices rose above \$18 per barrel or possibly higher still if the Geneva conference agreed to raise the minimum reference target.

But this was as far as the consensus went, MEES said.

"The question of where the price would have to reach and for how long in order to justify consideration of an increase in the ceiling and quotas, has been left open and there are evidently considerable differences of opinion on this score," MEES said.

Kuwait has said it hopes for a higher OPEC quota in October.

The Geneva meeting was likely to focus on the question of price targets, the Nicosia-based newsletter said.

The newsletter said despite the support for the Iranian proposal, another line of opinion shared by OPEC President Sadek Boussena of Algeria would prefer to concentrate on restoring prices to \$18 per barrel, leaving any increase in the formal price target till later.

"At the other end of the spectrum, MEES understands Iraq's

official position is that quota and ceiling increases should not even be considered until the OPEC basket price reaches \$25 per barrel," MEES said.

Iraq last Tuesday launched a stinging attack on Kuwait and the UAE for overproducing and forcing down oil prices, saying they were part of the U.S. instigated conspiracy that drove down oil prices by 30 per cent in the first half of this year.

MEES said Iraq's role in pressuring the UAE and Kuwait to cut production was welcome for most OPEC members but there was dismay in some circles over its hardline tactics, it added.

The Iraqi accusations in the wake of the July 10 Jeddah agreement in which Kuwait and the UAE agreed to drastically cut output, stunned conservative Gulf Arab producers.

Iraq — which desperately needs higher oil revenues to fund its post-war reconstruction programme — also threatened to take "unspecified action" against both countries if they produced above their quotas, as they have in the past.

Bulgaria hikes price of petrol

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria almost doubled the price of petrol Monday following cuts in oil shipments from the Soviet Union, the official BTA news agency said.

BTA, quoting an announcement from the government, said the price of normal grade petrol was going up from one lev per litre to 1.8 lev (33 cents to 60 cents), while super grade was increasing from 1.2 lev to 2.4 lev (40 cents to 80 cents).

The new price is the equivalent of \$2.70 a gallon for normal grade and \$3.60 a gallon for super grade. The average monthly wage in Bulgaria is only 250 lev (\$82).

Bulgaria has faced a fuel crisis since the beginning of the month after the Soviet Union, virtually its only source, reduced its supplies.

The government announcement said the country did not have enough foreign exchange to buy large quantities of fuel from non-traditional sources, and it did not expect any change in the situation in the foreseeable future.

Foreign investment in China declines

BEIJING (R) — Foreign investment in China fell sharply in the first half of this year but an easing of foreign sanctions, imposed after last year's military crackdown, should mean growth in coming months, a Chinese official said Monday.

Liu Xiangdong, spokesman for the ministry of foreign economic relations and trade, welcomed Japan's recent decision to permit lending under a \$5.6 billion loan package frozen after the crackdown.

He called on other major industrial nations, which also imposed curbs on official lending to China after the army crushed a democracy movement in Beijing on June 4, 1989, to lift their sanctions.

Liu said the number of new foreign investment projects approved during the first half of the year fell 8.1 per cent from a year earlier to 2,784, and their total contracted value slumped 22 per cent to \$2.35 billion.

He blamed the slump, which occurred despite a steep rise in investment from Taiwan, partly on what he called distorted reports by Western media on the

political unrest last year.

"But as foreign countries are getting a better understanding of June 4th, and as the domestic situation is still improving, the general trend (in foreign investment) is getting better," he said.

Liu also linked the decline to greater selectiveness by provincial governments in the type of investment they permitted, as well as to an austerity programme that succeeded in checking inflation but choked off funds to Chinese and foreign companies.

He quoted ministry statistics as showing imports during the first six months of this year fell 23.7 per cent from a year earlier to \$13.33 billion.

Imports from Japan during the first five months slumped 47.8 per cent, while imports from the United States fell 26.8 per cent and those from the European Community dropped 30.7 per cent.

Liu attributed the fall to reduced demand stemming from the austerity programme and to a devaluation of the Chinese currency last year.

Exports during the January-June period rose 21.7 per cent to \$24.5 billion, according to the ministry's figures.

FCC says foreign phone firms charge too much

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal telephone regulators are telling foreign phone companies that overseas calls into the United States are about twice as expensive as they should be.

And if foreign companies don't shape up, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) says it will take action to lower prices.

The FCC says U.S. phone customers may have paid as much as \$1 billion too much for international calls in 1988 due to outmoded contracts that allow overseas phone companies to charge inflated prices.

Not only does the practice hurt individual pocketbooks, it adds greatly to the U.S. trade deficit because far more calls go out of the United States than come in.

U.S. phone companies paid out \$2 billion more in 1988 than they took in from foreign phone companies, according to the FCC, which last week threatened to

limit what American phone companies can pay to overseas carriers.

The FCC says roughly half of the \$2 billion deficit represented an overpayment by U.S. consumers to foreign telephone companies that have refused to keep prices in line with cost-reducing advances in technology, such as direct dialing.

The FCC proposed to ease restrictions on how American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) and other U.S. long-distance companies such as MCI and Sprint negotiate "accounting rates" with foreign companies.

These accounting rates determine how the two sides calculate the charges consumers pay for international calls.

Competition gives U.S. companies an incentive to lower prices, but foreign phone companies, which typically are state-owned, don't face competitive pressures.

Their accounting rates may be based on the cost of operator-assisted international calling, and not reflect the lower costs of today's ubiquitous direct-dialing.

West Germany, for instance, has not lowered its accounting rate since 1983. U.S. phone companies still pay half of \$1.56 a minute, or 78 cents a minute, to the Germans for completing calls to West Germany.

AT&T and its rivals charge between \$6.20 and \$11.58 for a 10-minute call from the United States to West Germany, depending on when and how the call is made.

Slack production, currency shortages batter food supply in Soviet Union

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union, plagued by stagnant food production and severe shortages of hard currency, faces bread shortages and increased social tensions, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov has warned.

Ryzhkov told the new presidential council and republican leaders that real food production — up about one per cent — had just barely kept pace with population growth.

Government purchases of grain from collective and state farms were lagging behind 1989 and there was not enough currency to even approach last year's purchase of 44 million tonnes on the foreign market.

"Unless we fundamentally change the situation, then the country is not in any condition — I can say categorically — to purchase that much grain," Ryzhkov said in a speech.

Food supplies have dwindled steadily throughout the country, leaving many store shelves bare and increasing dissatisfaction among once-dedicated workers.

Ryzhkov's comments follow a catalogue of other problems — poor weather, technical failures and mismanagement — and a severe warning in the agricultural

daily Selskaya Zhizn.

The newspaper said at the weekend the state must acquire 85.3 million tonnes of grain. "Less than that is impossible. There may arise disruption in the bread supply to the people."

But only 76 million tonnes had been contracted, despite the sharp increases in procurement prices and incentives, including promised payments in hard currency and access to scarce machinery and consumer goods.

And the state has bought only 7.6 million tonnes of grain so far, although more than 40 million tonnes of grain had been threshed.

The newspaper also reported widespread complaints that vehicles, tractors and building supplies bought with last year's surplus grain had not been delivered. And it blamed serious mismanagement and failure of the state to provide equipment, parts and fuel.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, July 22, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	663.0	667.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	445.6	448.3
Pound Sterling	1206.1	1213.3	Dutch guilder	359.5	361.7
Deutschemark	404.6	407.0	Swedish crown	111.5	112.2
Swiss franc	474.0	476.8	Italian lira (for 100)	55.5	55.6
French franc	120.7	121.4	Belgian franc (for 10)	200.9	202.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

	One Sterling	1.8190/8200	U.S. dollar	1.1550/60
One U.S. dollar	1.6370/75		Canadian dollar	1.6370/75
	1.8430/40		Deutschemark	1.3985/95
	1.3985/95		Dutch guilder	33.68/73
	5.4875/4925		Swiss franc	1198/1199
	148.85/95		Belgian franc	5.4875/4925
	5.9250/9300		French franc	1198/1199
	6.2750/2800		Italian lire	148.85/95
	6.2175/2225		Japanese yen	5.9250/9300
One ounce of gold	362.30/70		Norwegian crowns	6.2750/2800
			Danish crowns	6.2175/2225
			U.S. dollars	362.30/70

VACANCY NOTICE FOR SECRETARY WITH AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

A Regional Office of an International Organisation is seeking a Secretary. Requirements: Very proficient English and Arabic typing as well as excellent general command of English. Shorthand and word processing skills are essential; other micro-computer (MS/DOS) skills an asset.

Candidates who meet the above requirements should submit their bio-data in writing to the Personnel Section, P.O. Box 811721, Amman, Jordan, not later than 4 August 1990.

BRITISH CITIZENS: RIGHT TO VOTE

The Representation of the People Act of 1989 has made important changes in who can vote in U.K. Parliamentary and European Parliamentary Elections.

1. Even if you left the U.K. as long ago as October 1970 you can still vote.
2. People who left the U.K. before they were old enough to be included on the Electoral Register may register as overseas electors.
3. You need no longer declare an intention to return to the U.K.

In order to qualify you need to fill in an application form by 10 October 1990.

To get a form and explanatory leaflet contact the Consular Section, British Embassy, P.O. Box 87, Amman.

* 15 September 1990 in Northern Ireland.

ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

Bankers are invited to apply for the post of Assistant Department Director at a reputable bank.

The successful candidate will be required to participate in the management of the Department operation, follow up on loans performance and status. Problem solving abilities would be an advantage.

The candidate should be a qualified banker with several years of experience. The candidate should also possess public relations skills and have knowledge of the banking environment in Jordan.

Compensation will be competitive and based on experience and potential.

Interested candidates to submit CVs to:
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Amman, Jordan

Latest date to receive applications shall not be later than 2nd August 1990. Notifications for interview will follow.

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Rent to be paid annually and can be let with or without furniture.

Location: Western Shmeisani, Abdul Haim Al Nimer Street, near Bilal Mosque, number 24.

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A Jordanian school teacher with a University Degree in Education and adequate teaching experience in Arabic and English is wanted. The teacher will also be responsible for supervising sports activities and encouraging extra-curricular interests. International experience, fluency in English, a creative, intellectually-oriented personality and an enthusiastic disposition are also required. Good salary and career opportunities offered. Applications together with reference and a photograph should be sent to:

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Amman, Jordan

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

DEADLY PURSUIT

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

THEY LIVE

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUN

Adel Imam, Yusra

The Devil's Island

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:45 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238

PLAZA

Adel Imam, Yusra

The Devil's Island

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:45 p.m.

Lawmakers close to Tamils resign Curfew imposed in north Sri Lanka; army moves towards besieged base

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Lawmakers considered close to the Tamil Tiger rebels resigned from parliament Monday, accusing the military of atrocities and genocide in a war with the guerrillas.

Meanwhile, the government declared a curfew in northern Kilinochchi district, scene of a fierce gunbattle Sunday that killed 18 rebels and nine soldiers Sunday. The military said it was hunting fleeing rebels.

Military officials said 76 rebels were killed in separate fighting in the east Sunday, and eight soldiers and three civilians in the north.

The deaths raise to at least 2,856 the number of combatants killed since fighting resumed on June 11 between the military and the rebels.

The bodies of eight Muslims, believed killed by rebels, were also found in the east, said military officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

All eleven members of the Eelavur Democratic Front announced their resignation from parliament. Last month, the group had called for a ceasefire between the rebels and the government. President Ranasinghe Premadasa rejected the offer,

asking the rebels to lay down their arms first.

"It appears that the hope we had that the solution be made through political measures is not sensible," they said in a statement. "The chance to find a solution to the problems of the Tamil-speaking people is out of reach."

"We do not want to be dormant spectators who witness the tormentations of our people," they added.

The Eelavur Democratic Front had won 13 of the 225 seats in parliament in 1989 general elections. Two of its members resigned earlier this year citing personal reasons.

At least 35 soldiers were wounded in the clash at Paranthan, a few miles north of Kilinochchi on the main route from Colombo to the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna, the military said.

The curfew was imposed from 6 a.m. (0030 GMT) to avoid civilian casualties as troops began moving towards Kilinochchi where an army base has been under siege by rebels for the past six weeks, officials said.

"The people are requested to remain indoors. Any movement will be considered as terrorist

activity," the Defence Ministry said in a statement broadcast on state radio.

"This measure is adopted for the safety and security of the civilian population," it said.

The base at Kilinochchi, 10 kilometres south of Elephant Pass gateway to Jaffna, is one of a dozen army bases attacked by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Infantry, backed by artillery and air cover, were marching towards Kilinochchi from Elephant Pass, where the Tigers blew up a vital highway Saturday, military sources said.

Troops from a camp at Elephant Pass, reinforced by 1,000 soldiers parachuted in Saturday, launched the advance after army engineers repaired the highway, the military said.

The assault apparently marked the start of a drive to wrest the north from Tiger control, Western diplomats said.

"There could be a lot of fighting in the next few days," one diplomat said.

The next 10 days would be the most crucial in the battle against the Tigers in the north, Army Commander Major-General Denzil Kobbekaduwa told the state-owned Sunday Observer.

"The troops would hit the Tigers hardest during these days," Kobbekaduwa, who led the military offensive in the east, said.

Security forces unveiled scores of decaying bodies half-buried in the eastern Sri Lanka bush Sunday and said they were policemen abducted and killed by Tamil separatist guerrillas.

Tamil policemen were freed and some others escaped, but the government said 630 were missing, believed dead.

On Sunday, the government's elite Special Task Force (STF) took journalists to a clearing in the bush outside Rufus Kalam, 80 kilometres south of Batticaloa, to display a mass grave and two piles of charred flesh nearby.

The STF estimated there were 150 to 200 corpses. Officers said they were those of men from three police stations who surrendered without a fight after months of cooperating with the Tigers under government orders.

"They would have been killed almost immediately on June 13," said STF Commandant Lionel Karunasena.

The paramilitary STF had been sent in to seize back the southern tip of Sri Lanka's Tamil northeast province from the Tigers.

Fierce fighting reported between Cambodian troops, Khmer Rouge

BANGKOK (AP) — Cambodia's Vietnamese-installed government Monday reported fierce fighting in a mountainous central province that it said Khmer Rouge guerrillas were trying to seize.

"The enemy are attempting by all means to seize control," of Kompong Thom, the Cambodian News Agency (SPK) quoted the chief provincial administrator, Khieu Horl, as saying.

Khieu Horl showed heaps of firearms, ammunition and other material recently captured from the guerrillas, said the report monitored in Bangkok. He said about 800 Khmer Rouge guerrillas struck from all directions on June 17, but were repulsed in fighting that killed 112 guerrillas.

Government Col. Heng Thol was quoted as saying the guerrillas have intensified attacks since last month's agreement in Tokyo to arrange a truce.

The Khmer Rouge did not sign the Tokyo agreement.

Claims of military successes by the government and the Khmer Rouge, both Communist, are treated with scepticism. But other sources have confirmed heavy fighting in Kompong Thom, which previously was largely spared in the 11-year-old war focussed on Western areas

bordering Thailand.

The Khmer Rouge and non-Communist guerrillas loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk have seized wide areas of the province in recent months. Sihanouk's fighters also briefly penetrated the provincial capital, also called Kompong Thom, said an Associated Press correspondent who visited the area.

The Khmer Rouge radio said Saturday it was preparing a new attack on the provincial capital, about 120 kilometres north of Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge, which killed hundreds of thousands of people when in power in the 1970s, is allied in a guerrilla coalition with the forces of Sihanouk and of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front. Vietnam installed the current government in Phnom Penh after invading in late 1978.

A U.S. policy shift announced Wednesday has increased fears that the Khmer Rouge will escalate the fighting because of its international isolation. The United States, citing its opposition to the Khmer Rouge, said it was withdrawing recognition of the coalition's seat at the United Nations in order to open talks with Vietnam on ending the Cambodian war.

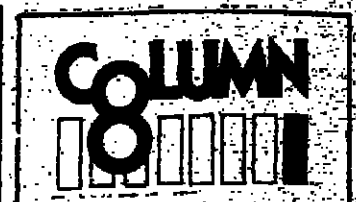
Meanwhile, Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila said Monday the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) still supports Cambodian guerrillas despite a decision by its U.S. ally to end recognition of the Khmer Rouge-dominated coalition.

Siddhi, long involved in labyrinthine moves to end the 11-year conflict, told reporters ASEAN would issue a statement at its annual meeting of foreign ministers in Jakarta this week pledging continued backing for the guerrillas.

"There will be a joint statement from ASEAN on continuing support to Prince Norodom Sihanouk on the Cambodian problem and calling for a speeding up of a comprehensive solution," he said at Bangkok's Don Muang Airport before leaving for Jakarta.

Foreign ministers from Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines are meeting there.

The regional grouping in the early 1980s cooperated with China and the United States in forming an anti-Vietnamese coalition out of the ashes of exile groups and the Khmer Rouge, ousted from power by Vietnamese troops in 1978-9.



Romania's first magazine for men hits newsstands

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's first soft-porn magazine went on sale Sunday, offering the "modern man" a mixture of sex, business advice and scantily-clad women. The first edition of *El* was promoted in the independent youth daily *Tineretul Liber* in a rare newspaper advertisement. But a search of Bucharest's hundreds of newsstands turned up only one that carried the 13-lei (75-cent) monthly. Its appearance has raised more than a few eyebrows in a country where just eight months ago even the mention of sex in the press was taboo. Pornography was outlawed under the 24-year rule of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. Sex education was non-existent and abortion and contraception were banned. *El* lacks the gloss of its Western equivalents but taps familiar sources for interviews, advice pages, gossip columns and horoscopes in its 24-page format. A splash of red, black and yellow covers the front page, swathing a woman wearing lace and string. A headline next to a photograph of Romania's former tennis star Ilie Nastase reads "the magazine for the modern man." Pictures of half-naked models may seem tame to Western eyes but to Romanians it's another revolution.

West Berliner wins face-twisting contest

MONCEREAU, France (R) — A West Berliner specialising in rubbing his eyes with his chin and swallowing his nose has won the world grimacing competition. Horst Ebbner, a 57-year-old roof tiler, dedicated his ugly-faced victory to the citizens of East Germany as they move towards unification with West Germany. Speaking after unfolding his face from the nose-concealing grimace that won him the title, Ebbner told Reuters: "I am delighted to dedicate this title to my brethren from East Germany. They're going to have to re-learn how to laugh." Ebbner had already won the competition, held annually in this southwestern French village, in 1979.

Cuomo comes across an odd incident

NEW YORK (AP) — Gov. Mario Cuomo was about to sign an asset-forfeiture bill along the East River when a young woman in a passing motorboat did some foretelling of her own. As the boat passed the pier where Cuomo stood last week with a small group of police and prosecutors, the woman shouted "hey." Then she waved her bra and pulled down her bathing suit bottom to expose her backside. Cuomo's response: "This could never happen in Queens," the New York City borough where he grew up. The bill he signed allows seizure of narcotics dealers' assets.

Finns get cosmic light show

HELSINKI (AP) — Thousands of Finns and tourists watched a total eclipse of the sun that momentarily darkened skies and panicked birds in southeastern Finland early Sunday. One spectator in Helsinki described it as "a cosmic light show, equally frightening and fascinating." The total eclipse occurred at 4:52 a.m. (0152 GMT). It was visible in an arc about 200 kilometres wide from the northern Baltic Sea and southeast Finland, across the Kola Peninsula and the northeast Soviet Union, to the Aleutian Islands near Alaska. In Helsinki, the light changed from a summer dawn to dark dusk within minutes. Some spectators watched through special glasses or dark film strips that enabled them to safely view the silhouette of the moon covering and uncovering the surface of the sun. Birds that had been singing minutes before suddenly became silent and some flew aimlessly around in panic. The eerie scene remained for more than a minute before light suddenly began to return. The eclipse had started 49 minutes earlier when the moon began to gradually move between the Earth and the sun. Several thousand people gathered in Helsinki on high hills and bridges and even on rooftops around the city, admiring and in some cases applauding the spectacle. Sightseeing trips by boat on the Gulf of Finland were arranged to provide a better view of the northern horizon.

Seoul opposition resigns from assembly

SEOUL (Agencies) — The South Korean opposition resigned en masse from parliament Monday to press for new elections. The government, preoccupied with overtures to North Korea, said the protest would be ignored.

Veteran opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung led 80 lawmakers in submitting letters of resignation to the National Assembly speaker. A spokesman for the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) said the resignations would not be accepted.

"From this seed will grow the tree of opposition unity, and if we unify the people will support us," Kim said.

The lawmakers who quit parliament were 70 members of Kim's Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), eight from the Democratic Party (DP) and two independents. The DLP holds 218 of the chamber's 299 seats. One independent, who leans towards the government, did not resign.

The opposition has demanded new general elections. DLP leaders have countered that the current constitution does not allow an early dissolution of parliament.

Elections are not due until 1992.

The DLP, formed by the merger of Roh's minority ruling party with two opposition groups, has used its muscle to ram through its legislative programme, parts of which were strenuously opposed by the opposition.

Opposition frustration has resulted in weeks of political turmoil, including fist-fights among lawmakers.

Kim said he would lead a series of peaceful rallies to press for new elections, and together with other leaders said the usually feuding opposition had agreed to unite to demand the elections and to oppose the DLP.

Two hundred thousand people braved rain last Saturday to cheer Kim and other opposition leaders at the first such rally near Seoul.

The government Monday said dissidents and others would be allowed to attend a North Korean unification rally called for next month at the border village of Panmunjom.

South Korea has in the past imposed heavy sentences on its citizens convicted of pro-Pyongyang activities and earlier

this year sent a 21-year-old college student to jail for five years for visiting Pyongyang.

Cabinet ministers proposed talks with their Pyongyang counterparts to discuss a proposal by President Roh Tae-Woo to open the Panmunjom crossing for five days around Korean Independence Day on Aug. 15.

Pyongyang, which advanced a similar offer two weeks ago, rebuffed Roh, imposing stringent conditions for its assent. Seoul would proceed with the border opening plans regardless, Roh told his cabinet Saturday.

South Korean officials announced Monday that Seoul is ready to negotiate North Korean conditions for opening their mutual border.

Three cabinet ministers Monday proposed that inter-Korea talks be held Friday to discuss the North Korean conditions.

The heavily fortified border between the two Koreas is tightly sealed, and more than 1.5 million troops are stationed on either side behind concrete bunkers and barbed wire. There is no mail, travel or other communication between the two sides.

Soviet hijack attempt foiled

MOSCOW (R) — A student and a bricklayer, undeterred by Sweden's extradition of a hijacker last week, tried to divert a Soviet airliner to Stockholm Monday but were overpowered on the ground.

They threatened to blow up the Tupolev-134 airliner with 74 passengers on board soon after it took off from the Latvian capital Riga for Munnask in the far north. Deputy Civil Aviation Minister Mikhail Timofeyev said.

After consulting security officials on the ground, the pilot brought the plane down in Petrozavodsk, Soviet Karelia, near the Finnish border, he told TASS news agency.

Guards seized the two men, identified only as Kovalenko and Kuznetsov.

No further details were immediately available of the 13th attempted hijack in the Soviet Union since June 9, when 17-year-old Dmitri Semyonov, brandishing a fake grenade, forced an airliner with 121 people on board to fly to Stockholm.

Sweden sent Semyonov back to the Soviet Union last Tuesday and TASS said he would be tried for hijacking and leaving the country illegally.

11 drown in Bangladesh boat accident

DHAKA (AP) — An overcrowded boat sank in a flooded river in southeastern Bangladesh, killing 11 passengers, police said Monday.

In the northwest, four children drowned Sunday in the Jamuna River, raising to 13 the death toll in recent monsoon flooding, officials and news reports said. About 100,000 people are homeless and 400,000 stranded in the area, the reports said.

On Sunday, a boat capsized with 70 people on board in Matamuhuri River at Bandarban, 250 kilometres southeast of Dhaka, police said.

Fifty-nine people swam ashore and eight bodies have been found, said a police official who was contacted in Bandarban by telephone.

The official, who cannot be

identified under briefing rules, said three passengers also were feared drowned and their bodies were believed to have swept downstream.

Ittefaq, a Bengali-language newspaper, said the rain-swollen Jamuna River in the northwest has inundated a 2,153-square-kilometre area in Sirajganj and surrounding districts.

Kashmir officials begin 3-day strike

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — Officials in Indian-ruled Kashmir defied the government and started a three-day strike Monday in protest against what they called repression by security forces fighting secessionist militants.

Union officials said about 80 per cent of government workers stayed at home in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

The Indian government, which has imposed its direct rule on the state, issued a statement saying the workers could face disciplinary action if they went ahead with the strike.

It also said they could be detained for up to 12 months under legislation outlawing strikes in essential services.

The strike excluded emergency hospital and fire services as well as the police.

The main target of the strike was the methods of the security forces, widely accused of human rights abuses in the fight against the militants which erupted in January.

More than 900 people have been killed in the uprising, which

has broad support in the overwhelmingly Muslim Kashmir Valley.

The union officials said the strike was also in support of demands for the release of six officials held for up to five months under security laws allowing detention without trial. The detained officials are accused of aiding the militants.

2 Punjab engineers killed

Meanwhile in Punjab, Sikh gunmen burst into a meeting of senior government officials Monday and shot dead two engineers working on a controversial irrigation project, police said.

The victims, Chief Engineer M.L. Sekhri and Superintendent Engineer A.S. Aulakh, were in charge of building a canal that will divert river water from Punjab state to other parts of India.

Police Inspector Jaspal Singh said three Sikhs burst into a meeting Sekhri was holding with other officials on the Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal Project and opened fire with automatic pistols.

Sekhri, 52, and Aulakh, 50,

were killed and two other officers were injured, Singh said.

The assailants fled on motor scooters, he said.

The project offices are located in a busy market complex in Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana states.

The canal is supposed to divert water from the Sutlej River to the Yamuna River. Construction began in 1982 and is nearly completed, government officials say.

Sikh politicians, whose support largely comes from Sikh farmers in Punjab, fear the project will deprive the state of irrigation facilities.

Sikh militant groups, agitating for an independent nation in Punjab, have also opposed the canal. In May 1988, 32 labourers working on the project were shot and killed by Sikh radicals.

Sikhs make up only 2 per cent of India's 880 million people but are in a slight majority in Punjab. The militants began fighting for independence in 1982, accusing the Hindu community of cultural and political discrimination. Nationwide, Hindus make up 82 per cent of the population.

Doe still refuses to leave besieged Liberian capital

MONROVIA (AP) — President Samuel Doe says he won't leave the besieged capital until the civil war is decided. Sources say that at any rate, fleeing would not be easy because the soldiers guarding Doe won't let him go without them.

The 500-member Presidential Guard, made up of soldiers from Doe's Krahn tribe, fear massacre at the hands of the rebels, who have fought their way to within a mile of Doe's oceanfront mansion.

The rebels, who are mostly from the rival Gio and Mano ethnic groups, were locked in street combat with Doe's regular troops Sunday, the sources said.

The said some government soldiers were urging the president to flee to avoid a bloodbath and that there was bitter infighting in the

executive mansion. Doe has been deserted by nearly all senior members of his government.

Doe, in a telex to the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC), said Sunday that he would remain until "a clear victor emerges."

The presidential mansion, which has a commanding view of the city, was stockpiled with ammunition and explosives in preparation for a final rebel assault, said a diplomatic source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The president remained "convinced he is invincible," the source said, adding that he expected Doe to fight to the finish.

The source said Doe was "relying increasingly on his belief that black magic will save him."

ANC acknowledges arrests of infiltrators

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The African National Congress (ANC) acknowledged Monday that its guerrillas have been infiltrating South Africa and many have been arrested, but it denied reports of a secret insurrection plot.

An ANC official said police were staging a nationwide police sweep on ANC militants and Communist Party members who had recently returned from exile or who had infiltrated the country secretly.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a man claiming to be a sub-lieutenant in the ANC's military wing reportedly entered the U.S. consulate in Durban Monday seeking asylum because of the police raids.

The ANC source said Dheku-musa Jabulani Ximbe, 38, had been in hiding since police raided his home a week ago and confiscated a cache of hand grenades and limpet mines.

ANC members are returning to South Africa under initiatives meant to open talks on ending apartheid, the country's system of racial segregation.

Walter Sisulu, internal ANC leader, was quoted in the Daily Mail newspaper as saying his organisation believed as many as 150 of its members have been arrested in recent weeks. He said he assumed they had been engaged in the "normal activities" of the organisation, and he noted the ANC's "armed struggle" had not been suspended.

But Sisulu denied reports in several Sunday newspapers that quoted government sources as saying a secret unit of ANC guerrillas, directed by the South African Communist Party, was planning an armed insurrection.

Strong aftershocks rock Philippine quake city

BAGUIO, Philippines (Agencies) — Strong aftershocks rocked this mountain city Monday, sending residents fleeing into the streets and hampering the search for victims of last week's earthquake. The death toll surpassed 1,000.

In Manila, President Corazon Aquino urged congress to approve a 10-billion-peso (\$500-million) relief package to rebuild infrastructure destroyed by last Monday's quake, which measured 7.7 on the Richter Scale.

Aquino made the call in a 55-minute address that television commentators said was surprisingly lackluster.

"The test of political leadership is that you must have magnetism, you must mesmerise people," said Amado Doronila, editor of the Manila Chronicle, during a nationally televised commentary. "Some leaders have that and some do not."

In other governmental response Monday, Rep. Rolando Andaya, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said he would pursue proposals to suspend debt payments for two years to free funds to rebuild.

Aquino has warned that any unilateral reduction in debt payments could worsen the country's economic plight by prompting international lenders to reduce the flow of new money.

On Monday, the search for survivors shifted to the grim task of recovering the dead. British and other foreign experts declared there were no signs of life in any of the nearly 30 buildings devastated by the tremor.

Figures compiled by the Office of Civil Defence, Red Cross and

the regional disaster coordinating centre put the death toll at 1,043.

More than 200 bodies are believed still buried beneath the rubble of nearly 30 buildings damaged in the quake.

On Monday, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, chairman of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, said more than 3,000 people were severely injured during the quake and more than 700 were missing. Ramos said nearly 90,000 people were homeless.

British volunteers abandoned the search for survivors after failing to find signs of life in the Hyatt Hotel, the last area of Baguio where experts believed there might still be survivors of the quake.

Hopes that some people were still alive at the Hyatt faded after rescuers no longer heard tapping sounds on walls near the hotel basement. Rescuers said the last of the survivors probably died after aftershocks shifted the rubble, either crushing them or depriving them of air.

More aftershocks jolted Baguio Monday, including one about 9:45 a.m. (0045 GMT) that sent hundreds of nervous residents fleeing into the streets. Many Baguio residents have been sleeping outdoors since the quake because of continuing aftershocks.

On Sunday, one of Aquino's cabinet members acknowledged that his construction firm built the Baguio Hyatt 15 years ago, but he refused to comment on allegations by a prominent civil engineer that the building was structurally unsound.

"There are many factors to consider before you can pinpoint

where the fault lies," said Florello Estura, secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Last week, Octavio Kalalo, former president of the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines, said he inspected the Hyatt in 1985 and warned that the building could suffer serious damage in an earthquake because it was structurally unsound. But he said the warning went unheeded.

In Manila, Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon said he would launch an investigation into possible criminal liability of builders and owners of buildings that collapsed here and in Cabañatuan during the quake.

On Sunday, Roman Catholic priests visited collapsed buildings, blessing the bodies of those who may be entombed there.

Jose de Jesus, presidential relief coordinator, said 373 people were killed in Baguio alone and another 175 in the surrounding province of Benguet.

De Jesus said 135 people were believed trapped inside eight factories in Baguio but all are believed dead. De Jesus said information on deaths and damage was still trickling in from remote areas, including Nueva Vizcaya province, where many villages and roads were buried by landslides.

Philippine pilots who surveyed the areas saw masses of survivors walking over the mountains to safety. The pilots described them

as looking like "columns of ants" silhouetted against the barren mountain slopes.

Relief supplies meant for victims of the earthquake have been pilfered, de Jesus said Monday.

He blamed the losses on government laxity in handling aid donations.

He did not say how much aid was lost or if it included foreign donations but said "there was a lot of slippage."

"We have received complaints that the goods are going to the hands of people who have no need for them, who in fact even sell them," de Jesus told a news conference.

"We were not really very tight in the beginning. There were just so many people who would come and in order not to delay, we just gave to everybody that came," he said.

Aid has been pouring into Manila since last week's earthquake, but survivors in devastated northern areas complain food supplies are not getting through quickly enough.

"We need food, SOS" pleaded a message painted on a basketball court in the badly damaged village of Tuba near Baguio.

In Baguio and surrounding areas, survivors are still going hungry, reports Monday said.

"There's a block somewhere," said Baboo Mondonero after unsuccessfully scouting relief stations in Baguio for food.

Baguio residents said they had to wait for days and sign numerous forms in order to claim supplies. They know food, medicine and other supplies are arriving in Manila.

Mohawk Indians dig in for long fight with Quebec

OKA, Quebec (R) — Armed Mohawk Indians, who set up barricades on contested land near a small Quebec town, showed no sign of capitulating to police as their food supplies began to dwindle.

The Indians rose in armed revolt last week to protest against plans to turn a tribal burial ground into a golf course in the resort town of Oka, about 32 kilometres west of Montreal.

Twelve days after the death of a Quebec police officer in a fierce gunbattle with the Indians, both parties continued to eye each other warily across barricades strung around the Kanessatake Reserve.

"We will be here for a long time," said one heavily-armed Mohawk, who declined to be identified.

Another said: "It took 500 years to get to this, we'll see how long it takes to get us out."

The Canadian government has

said it will not negotiate to end the dispute between natives and local residents until the natives lay down their arms.

The police have cordoned off the small resort town as well as the nearby reservation, cutting most food supplies to the hundreds of natives inside.

A caravan of about 150 area sympathisers attempted Sunday to bring boxes of food to the natives but were stopped and forced to leave the provisions with trappist monks in Oka.

The native Americans have constructed makeshift checkpoints throughout the dense pine forests and Mohawks stationed at Oka, carrying AK-47 assault rifles and heavy calibre pistols, nightly patrol the thick forest that surrounds the reservation.

Indians gathered Sunday in several Canadian cities to denounce the Canadian government for what they termed official inaction in dealing with their land claims.